Chapter 21. Sixth U.S. Army, 1946–1980

Sixth U.S. Army, the Presidio, and Korean War, 1946–1959

The Sixth Army, "Born of War," was established in January 1943 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to fight under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Southwest Pacific. Between 1943 and 1945 it fought courageously and successfully in New Guinea, the Bismark Archipelago, and the Philippine Islands. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, and an advance party from Sixth Army arrived in Japan on September 18. The Sixth Army became the occupational force in Japan and its commander, Gen. Walter Krueger, established his headquarters in the historic city of Kyoto. On January 26, 1946, the U.S. Army officially inactivated the Sixth Army in Japan.

When the Pentagon reactivated the Sixth Army at the Presidio of San Francisco on March 1, 1946, Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill took temporary command. Not until a week later did General Stilwell assume command and Merrill reverted to his position as chief of staff, while Maj. Gen. George P. Hays became Stilwell's deputy commander.[1]

The Sixth U.S. Army was one of six armies in the continental United States. All ground installations, and until January 1947, all air installations in eight western states — Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona — came under its administration. Its principal missions included command and support of all assigned or attached units, activities, and installations; training, equipping, and combat readiness of assigned combat forces; conducting field exercises, command post exercises, and troop tests; assistance to civilian agencies in times of disaster; and command and support of the Army Reserve and the ROTC, and support of the National Guard.[2]

Among the units attached to Headquarters, Special Troops, at the Presidio in 1946 were: Headquarters Company; Post Operating Company; 11th Transportation Corps Car Company; 54th AGF Band; 63d Military Police Platoon; 115th and 306th Counter-Intelligence Corps detachments; 199th Photo Interpretive Team; 13th Signal Operating Company, and a WAC detachment. By the time the entire staff had assembled the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters' offices occupied all three of the largest barracks buildings at the main post, buildings 35, 38, and 39.[3]

The School for Bakers and Cooks continued to instruct in the culinary arts. In May 1946 it was renamed the Quartermaster Food Service School and responsibility for it transferred from the Ninth Service Command to the quartermaster general. Its curriculum had increased to 11 subjects, including mess management, meat cutting, and special baking.[4]

In July 1946 General Stilwell traveled to Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands to observe the effect of two atomic bomb tests. When he returned to San Francisco in August his wife noticed a change in his appearance, "he appeared shrunk and unwell and complained of a lack of energy." At the end of September he entered Letterman General Hospital where he underwent surgery for stomach cancer. A few days later the Army awarded him the Combat Infantry Badge, an award he had long wanted. He did not learn about the award, however, for he died on October 12 at the age of 63 before receiving it. A public funeral was not held; his ashes were scattered over the Pacific Ocean.[5]

General Hays succeeded Stilwell as the acting commander of Sixth U.S. Army and served as such until June 1947 when he transferred to Germany. In 1945 the Presidio had hosted a reception for officers attending the meeting of the United Nations. In November 1946, a United Nations committee inspected the Presidio as a possible site for the United Nations headquarters. Dr. Eduardo Zuleta Angel of Colombia chaired the committee. He announced that the Presidio was his first choice but that Boston and New York remained in the running. President Harry S. Truman was agreeable to making the Presidio available. The Soviet Union, however, opposed the selection of San Francisco or any west coast site, and when John D. Rockefeller offered $8.5 million worth of land in Manhattan, the United Nations chose New York City. Some local forces in San Francisco also did not favor having the United Nations headquarters on the reservation, thinking rather that the Presidio should be given over to civilian housing because of the severe housing shortage in postwar San Francisco. For a time, the federal government considered this possibility. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson studied releasing part of the Presidio for housing but concluded that it was still one of the Army's most important bases.

Shortly thereafter, the Sixth U.S. Army announced plans for the Presidio — calling for a new Letterman General Hospital, a Veterans Administration hospital, military housing, and administrative offices for all military units then at San Francisco. Additional military housing was the first of these to become a reality. In 1947 work began at the Presidio with the construction of 23 duplexes for officers' families. Located on Presidio Hill above Infantry Terrace

Above: Sixth U. S. Army headquarters, including the offices of the commanding general and other general officers, in former barracks 38, 1990. *Erwin Thompson, 1994.*

Below: Sixth Army Headquarters buildings 35 (at left) and 38, as they appeared ca. 1950. *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr.*

the quarters [401-434], centered on Washington Boulevard; they were completed in 1948. Other construction in the early postwar years included a small guest house [516] to the rear of the commanding general's quarters [1], a tennis court [582] in the former East Cantonment area (and near an earlier cantonment court), a sewage pump house [645] in the former Crissy Field area, and a concrete flammable storage structure [990] adjacent to the mine wharf. The Sixth U.S. Army also found room in an unidentified building (former building 89 — no longer extant) at the main post for a children's nursery in 1947.[6]

In September 1947 barracks 650 at former Crissy Field was officially designated Stilwell Hall; it now contained a reserve officers' club. On September 22 a reception was held in the club's lounge. About that time, "a beautiful but appropriately simple bas-relief plaque, designed by Haig Patigian, one of the world's best known sculptors," was unveiled.[7]

Social activities, including visits by foreigners, marked the days. In December 1946 the Army gave a salute and an escort for General Olino of Brazil. Early in 1947 a luncheon at the officers' club welcomed Prince Saud Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. A month later, honors were extended to Maj. Gen. J. L. Huang of the Chinese Embassy. Before the year was out, the Presidio entertained the vice president of the Philippines and general officers of the Turkish army. On one occasion the Sixth U.S. Army's judge advocate hosted 35 judge advocate officers from other bases in the Bay Area at the officers' club. The club also held meetings of the Presidio Women's Club where on May 1, 1947, members listened to a reading of actress Ruth Gordon's "Years Ago." Perhaps the most interesting event in 1947 was the centennial observation of the arrival of American troops at San Francisco held on March 11. The Presidio celebrated with an open house, displays, entertainment, and a retreat parade.[8]

General Hays turned over command of the Sixth U.S. Army to Gen. Mark Clark in June 1947. Hays met Clark at one of the Presidio's gates (Lombard Street?) and escorted him to the parade ground where cannon boomed a 17-gun salute. Several thousand military and civilian spectators witnessed the ceremony. Following a review of the troops and a formal retreat ceremony, Clark held a press conference. That evening the officers' club was the scene of a reception for the famed World War II leader.[9]

During his two years at the Presidio, General Clark paid close attention to the welfare of enlisted men and their families. Besides establishing a nursery for infant children, he took a great interest in the construction of a first-class service club for the enlisted men and women

Above: Enlisted men's service club, 135, under construction, 1948-1949. Conceived of by Lt. Gen. Joseph Stillwell and dedicated by Lt. Gen. Mark Clark on July 14, 1949, the club was the scene of a number of significant events during the Korean War, including the signing of a joint security treaty between the United States and Japan. West and south elevations. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Building 135 became a noncommissioned officers' open mess in 1964. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, August 1991.*

of the lowest ranks on the post. General Stilwell had conceived of such a club but had not lived long enough to see it realized. General Clark dedicated the large, modern club [135] on July 14, 1949. A site for it near the post chapel had been cleared of eucalyptus trees and the Army's Welfare Fund (non-appropriated) made a grant for the construction, which amounted to $350,000. The reinforced concrete, U-shaped building had overall measurements of 100 feet by 180 feet. The Spanish Colonial Revival architecture of the exterior harmonized with the nearby post chapel, but the interior was finished in a contemporary manner. The main lounge had maple flooring and three large plate glass windows in steel frames faced the bay. Other facilities included a recreation room, a dance floor, a cafeteria, a kitchen, a snack bar, a pool, billiards, a library, a games room, and bowling alleys.

Plans called for a memorial fountain in the forecourt to be paid for by soldiers in memory of their comrades killed in World War II. This feature, however, was not constructed, but a small D-Day memorial was placed there on the fortieth anniversary of the Normandy invasion in France. Cpl. Lou J. Cameron painted a mural above the fireplace depicting the original settlement of the Presidio (no longer extant).[10]

This building, designed for the welfare of privates, had a future far different than the original intent. A year after the service club's dedication, war broke out on the Korean peninsula (1950–1953). When Communist Chinese forces entered the war, President Truman determined to arrange a treaty of peace with Japan and to establish a security system in the Pacific similar to NATO in Europe. On August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines concluded a Mutual Defense Treaty. Two days later, meeting in the still-new service club, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand signed a Tripartite Security Treaty. A week later, September 8, 49 nations attending a peace conference in San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House, signed a "peace of reconciliation" with Japan. And on that same day, United States and Japanese delegates, also meeting at the Presidio's service club, signed a joint security pact, in effect an alliance between the two nations that had so recently been enemies.

The service club had further associations with the Korean War. High-ranking officers of the Chinese National Army from Taiwan held a press interview in the service club in February 1953. Between August 23 and September 23, 1953, eight army transports bearing former American prisoners of war from North Korea docked at the Fort Mason piers. Those men whose families were unable to meet them were brought to the service club to relax and enjoy

refreshments. All were given free long-distance calls, and members of the press interviewed the freed men.[11]

Among the former prisoners of war was Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, who had commanded the 24th Infantry Division in Korea when North Koreans captured him in July 1950. The United States, not knowing if he was alive or dead, awarded him the Medal of Honor in September 1950. Tortured and isolated by his captors, Dean held out until he was liberated in September 1953 and returned to the United States a hero. From 1954 to his retirement in 1955 he served as the deputy commander, Sixth U.S. Army, Presidio of San Francisco. In retirement he lived at Berkeley, California.[12]

By 1964 noncommissioned officers assigned to the Presidio outnumbered the privates. These noncommissioned officers then had their main club (open mess) in the old YMCA building, (former building 69 — no longer extant), that had first served as a servicemen's club at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. After the fair it was moved to the main post at a site across Lincoln Boulevard from Letterman Hospital. After the YMCA left the Presidio, Letterman had used the building for a patient program. In 1922 the Army added a small swimming pool. About 1958 the building became the noncommissioned officers' open mess.

Because of the numerical disparity between the noncommissioned officers and the privates, the Sixth U.S. Army decided to move the noncommissioned officers to the handsome service club [135] and the privates to former building 69. A United Volunteer Services worker, Marilyn L. Hunt, who had long been associated with the service club, felt aggrieved and encouraged privates to write protest letters to public officials, including President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Army took disciplinary action and the issue ended. To compensate the privates for their loss, Sixth U.S. Army had former building 69 refurbished and redecorated. On December 17, 1964, the Army held a grand opening for "Presidio Service Club No. 1," with Lt. Gen. Frederic J. Brown presiding over the opening ceremony. This service club, however, had a brief existence. It was demolished to make room for a new gymnasium [63] that was completed in 1971 at a cost of $708,000. The privates then found themselves relaxing in the old log and stone building [1299] at Fort Winfield Scott.[13]

The Army's continuing housing shortage nationwide received some relief in 1948 when the U.S. Congress passed the Wherry Act sponsored by U.S. Senator Kenneth S. Wherry (R-Nebraska). Under its provisions, private enterprise could build and operate rental housing

units on or adjacent to military installations. The Federal Housing Agency loaned the construction funds to private companies held to be responsible firms. By late 1951 the Corps of Engineers' San Francisco District Engineer, working with the Federal Housing Agency, had authorized the construction of nearly 1,800 housing units (500 units or apartments at the Presidio of San Francisco) at military installations in California.

In San Francisco, Angus McSweeney became the architect for the Presidio's Wherry housing and the George Bauer Construction Company of Portland, Oregon, won the building contract. The *San Francisco Examiner* announced in January 1952 that the federal government was leasing 38 acres of land in the southwestern portion of the reservation to the Bauer firm for a term of 75 years. The selection of this site meant the removal of a portion of the Presidio forest. When civilian neighbors objected to use of the site because the project would become an eyesore, they received assurances that a screen of trees would remain. Completed in 1953, the 500 housing units were quickly occupied, each apartment having two or three bedrooms. Majors were allocated 776 square feet of space; company grade officers (captains and lieutenants), 707 square feet; and noncommissioned officers, 700 square feet. Personnel from the Presidio occupied 259 of the 500 units; the U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Command (Fort Mason), 30 units; Letterman General Hospital, 78; and the U.S. Navy, 133. The *Star Presidian* announced in 1958 that soldiers going overseas whose families were in the Wherry project could be assured that their dependents would remain there until the soldiers returned.

At the same time the post newspaper announced that because of the forthcoming "Capehart" housing project, sponsored by U.S. Senator Homer Capehart (R-Indiana), the armed services were required to absorb the Wherry projects as government housing at those installations where Capehart units were approved. In 1963, in anticipation of additional housing, the *Star Presidian* said that the Presidio then had a population of 4,542 military personnel, of whom 2,065 were married and had their families. The Presidio then had only 1,209 adequate housing units, while the Army leased 100 private dwellings in the city and another 34 in Marin County.

The Presidio considered the Wherry housing to be below army standards and recommended as early as 1959 that the federal government not acquire it. If that were to happen, the Army would have to raise the soldiers' rent. Again in 1961 the Presidio drew up a long list of the buildings' inadequacies: too crowded, rehabilitation too expensive, lack of necessary funds,

Former post trader's residence, 116. It later became noncommissioned officers' quarters. In 1989, army offices occupied the building. The front porch has been removed. South and east elevations. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1989.*

the light frame construction, too small bedrooms and storage areas, crowded kitchens, inadequate electrical wiring, undersized utilities, and lack of soundproofing.

When the Presidio's commander, Col. Robert W. Clirehugh, learned that the Army would acquire the Wherry housing, he recommended that only enlisted men occupy it. The *San Francisco Chronicle* announced on September 4, 1963, that the Army had purchased the 500 units of the "Bakers Beach Apartments" for $4.8 million. The president of the apartments' corporation, George P. Leonard, received $1.3 million and the federal government assumed the mortgages, $3.5 million. The Army said it would modernize the apartments. The City of San Francisco regretted that it would lose the $45,000 that it collected annually in taxes. The *Star Presidian* confirmed that enlisted men occupied the entire project — 367 army units, 133 navy units. The Presidio continued to experience a shortage of adequate quarters for both commissioned and noncommissioned officers. Even before the Army acquired the Wherry project, the Presidio requested 300 homes be constructed under the provisions of the Capehart Act.[14]

San Francisco Municipal Railway. "D"-line electric trolley car on the loop in the Presidio of San Francisco, turning to head back into town, circa 1947. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Other construction in the late 1940s and the 1950s included a multitude of projects. At the main post: 13 carports for the Civil War officers' quarters on Funston Avenue [17–29], in 1951; a transformer [30], in 1958; a bus stop shelter [66], in 1959; an emergency generator [68], in 1955; a transformer [114], in 1959; a sewage pump house [205], in 1952; a gas service station [231], in 1947; a wash rack (former building 267 — no longer extant), in 1951; a heavy equipment shed (former building 268 — no longer extant), in 1951; a carpenter shop/storage shed (former building 286 — no longer extant), in 1950; an insect and rodent control facility (former building 287 — no longer extant), in 1946; a transformer vault [289], in 1952; and seven structures for flammable material (former buildings 292–298 — no longer extant), in 1951. In the Infantry Terrace and Golf Course areas: a golf shop [300] (slated to be demolished in 1997 per the *General Management Plan Amendment* [GMPA]), in 1956; a golf shelter [317] (slated to be demolished in 1997 per the GMPA), in 1959; two nonpotable water pump houses [318 and 319], in 1959; two water reservoirs [322 and 323], in 1956 and 1958; a pump house [324], in 1956; a starter house [346] (slated to be demolished in 1997 per the GMPA), in 1959; an admin-

istration building [347] (slated to be demolished in 1997 per the GMPA), in 1960; a pump house [348], in 1959; and an exchange store [385], in 1958. In the Lower Presidio/Crissy Field area: a gas station [637], in 1957; an oil storage tank [638], in 1959; a unit motor pool [644], in 1951; a radio shelter/navigation aids building [646], in 1957; a transformer [648], in 1950; a railroad end and side loading ramp [656], in 1952; a terminal equipment hut [675], in 1952; a wind direction indicator [676], in 1950; and a water valve house (former building 659 — no longer extant), in 1959.

In the southeast portion of the reservation construction included: two baseball/football field dugouts (764 and 766—no longer extant), in 1959; Paul R. Goode athletic field (768—no longer extant), in 1957; a latrine [769], in 1959; a sprinkler control (773—no longer extant), 1954; three apartment houses for noncommissioned officers [765 and 767], in 1950, and current building 770, in 1959; a scorer's booth and locker room (former building 804 — no longer extant), in 1957; and refreshment stand [805], in 1957. At the west end of Crissy Field: engineer field maintenance shops [924], in 1959; a transformer enclosure [925], in 1959; a sewage ejector building [940], in 1952; and a gasoline pump (975), in 1957. At Fort Winfield Scott: a cold storage warehouse [1296], in 1952; two paint storage buildings [1370 and 1371], in 1959; and a flammable storage shed [1373], in 1959. And in the southwestern corner of the reservation and the Marine Hospital area: a water pump house [1772], in 1948; a sewage pump house [1794], in 1953; a flagstaff [1800], in 1952; a recreation bunker [1803], ca. 1950s; and a tennis court [1830], in the 1950s.[15]

Other items concerning the Presidio's physical plant during the 1950s included the structure [215] originally built in 1951 as a bus stop on Lincoln Boulevard, north of the main parade. The one story, wood frame, stucco building exhibiting Spanish Colonial architecture had many lives. By 1980 it housed a bicycle rental shop that also made repairs and sales as a post exchange activity. By 1991 the building contained a bank teller machine and a travel agency.[16]

Through the years the Presidio's neighbors, ever alert to changes over the wall that met with their disapproval, were always ready to complain. In 1952 came the issue of a new three-block-long wire mesh fence being constructed atop the masonry boundary wall on Lyon Street. People on the city side of the wall, an area early known as Cow Hollow, objected strenuously to this intrusion, calling it an unwarranted eyesore. The city newspapers publicized the issue and San Francisco Mayor Elmer Robinson sided with the citizens. Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, however, defended the new fence pointing out that the Presidio was as important

tactically as it ever was, that new weapons of great power were being installed (Nike missiles), and that recently acts of arson and forced entry had been made on sensitive Presidio sites. Mayor Robinson backed down and the fence remained. It was left to the *San Francisco Examiner* to suggest that the fence protected the residences of General Swing and a few other officers.[17]

That same year the old post chapel from the Civil War era [45], now the Catholic "Chapel of Our Lady," was enlarged with a new wing and generally renovated. The area between it and the officers' club became a "typical" California mission garden and a bronze plaque was placed under a wooden cross. In September the chapel was rededicated at a mass that commemorated the 176th anniversary of the first mass at the Presidio, in 1776.[18]

Over the years the Presidio post headquarters had occupied a variety of buildings on the reservation, often its several offices being separated. In 1954 the *Star Presidian* reported that, finally, the key elements of post headquarters had come together under one roof — the former barracks and school for bakers and cooks [220].[19]

The post newspaper also described other Presidio operations in the 1950s. The telephone exchange in current building 67 had eight operators who handled an average of 8,000 calls daily. The "unique" autoelectric switchboard had 2,678 working lines, not counting extensions, that connected the Presidio, Sixth U.S. Army, Letterman, California Military District, and Forts Scott, Funston, Baker, Barry, and Cronkhite. The underwater cable to Marin County had a 3-inch diameter and there were 865,380 feet of underground cable. The coast-to-coast dialing system provided immediate contact with the Pentagon. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company presented the Presidio with a telephone bill of $10,000 each month. Besides the telephone exchange, the Sixth U.S. Army's communications center in current building 35 operated around the clock. Manned by 25 military and 143 civilian employees, it processed 18,000 messages a day, sending and receiving on army teletype equipment as well as commercial Western Union and teletypewriter exchange facilities.

In 1942 the Presidio acquired a transmitter building and its Radio Station WVY [314]. By 1955 this concrete structure was associated with the Army and Navy Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). The primary purpose of MARS was to train the military so that in an emergency a communications system could be set up with civilian counterparts. By 1955 the Sixth U.S. Army area of MARS had expanded to more than 700 members who operated 38 radio

Presidio of San Francisco. Aerial view of the Lower Post during or after World War II (probably 1950s), showing Crissy Field buildings and World War II temporary buildings (Area B). Fort Point Coast Guard Station is among the trees in the center of view. Note the seaplane ramp at bottom center (building nearest to the ramp, now gone). The elevated Highway 101 (Doyle Drive) leads to the Golden Gate Bridge. *U.S. Coast Guard photograph.*

nets in the eight western states. The Sixth U.S. Army station AGUSA could communicate to all parts of the world where MARS stations were located. AGUSA operated out of its "studio" in the penthouse on top of headquarters building 35.[20]

Other structural changes in the 1950s included the departure of the YMCA from the Presidio in 1954. Ever since the 1915 exposition it had managed, in association with Letterman, former building 69 (no longer extant) across from the general hospital in the building that had served as an enlisted club during the exposition. Now YMCAs departed from most army posts. The Red Cross associated with Letterman took over the upper floor of the building, and the Presidio, the lower floor including the swimming pool in an ell.

The old post hospital [2] that had begun life as the Wright General Hospital during the Civil War served as the Presidio's post dispensary in the 1950s. In 1955 the building was thoroughly refurbished: walls painted a warm green, dark green asphalt tile on the floors, venetian shades on the windows, and fluorescent light fixtures. The World War II barracks [3] next door was remodeled to accommodate the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic and the physical examination section complete with x-ray equipment.

Earlier, in 1950, the Presidio constructed buildings to house an Army Reserve Center [644 and 649] at former Crissy Field. At that time new reserve centers were named for enlisted men rather than officers. In this case the two buildings were named "Harmon Hall USAR Center" in honor of Sgt. Roy W. Harmon, killed in action in Italy in 1944. Harmon, assigned to the 91st Infantry Division, was a native Californian. In July enemy machine gun fire near Casaglia stopped the advance of his company. Ordered to neutralize the enemy fire, Harmon led his squad forward. When it became pinned down, he alone mounted an assault, destroying three enemy machine guns in quick succession. Although wounded twice, Harmon destroyed the third gun just as he fell dead. The U.S. Congress awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.[21]

The war in Korea, lasting from 1950 to 1953, increased Sixth U.S. Army's responsibilities manyfold. On the eve of war the U.S. Army's strength stood at less than 600,000; by 1953 it had increased to 1.5 million. During the three years of the war, the headquarters at the Presidio continued its responsibilities in training combat and support troops. San Francisco and Seattle ports dispatched and received an endless stream of troop transports and freighters carrying personnel and supplies. The 2nd Infantry Division, the first to depart from the United States, shipped from Fort Lewis, Washington. California's 40th Infantry Division (National Guard) was close behind. The Presidio also provided support to Letterman Hospital as it treated the wounded and sick arriving by hospital ship.

On April 17, 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, having been relieved from his command of United Nations troops in Korea by President Truman, arrived at San Francisco from Japan. The Presidio's 30th Engineers Group provided an honor guard and the 701st Military Police Battalion assisted civilian authorities in managing the throngs who greeted the general. In April 1952 the globe-trotting Bob Hope presented his show at Fort Winfield Scott. A month later, the Presidio presented honors to Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway who was en route from

Korea to his new command in Europe. And on February 25, 1953, Presidio troops paraded in honor of Gen. James A. Van Fleet on his return from Korea and en route to retirement.

A year later, after an armistice had brought relative peace to the Korean peninsula, South Korea's President Syngman Rhee arrived at San Francisco, accompanied by Mrs. Rhee. Maj. Gen. William Dean, now Sixth U.S. Army's deputy commander, met the Rhees at the Arguello Gate and escorted them to a reviewing stand that had been erected on the old parade between current buildings 39 and 40. Soldiers lined the route and a guard of honor accompanied the party. At the parade ground the massed colors of the United States, Korea, United Nations, and 20 nations who had taken part in the conflict added drama to the event. Lt. Gen. Willard G. Wyman, commanding Sixth U.S. Army, greeted the Rhees. Even then, French troops in Indochina faced the Communist Vietminh regime.[22]

Periodically, ever since the 1870s, someone or other would initiate a scheme to divest the Presidio of some or all of its acreage for private development. In 1923, during the administration of President Calvin Coolidge, Secretary of War John W. Weeks proposed selling a part of the reservation. On that occasion, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was against the idea. Three years later the War Department again considered selling the Presidio, this time for $26 million. Following World War II, undeveloped land on the San Francisco peninsula was rapidly disappearing. From time to time developers and public officials looked longingly at the Presidio's green acres. Throughout 1947 local newspapers debated whether the reservation should be developed for housing or preserved as a national monument. In 1948 the *San Francisco Chronicle* announced a plan to fill an additional 320 acres on the bay side of the Presidio, from Fort Point to the Yacht Club, and to construct 12,000 apartments there.

A Presidio officer, Lt. Col. R. M. Johnson, prepared a memorandum in 1950 concerning "certain cliques and pressure groups" in San Francisco who continued to press for private development. He argued that the Army should counter by stressing the Presidio's historic and scenic values. Among his many recommendations were the erection of markers, parking lots at scenic points, a marked auto route, cleanup of Baker Beach, guide books, and declaration of old Fort Point as a national monument similar to the one at Fort Rosecrans (Cabrillo National Monument) at San Diego.

In 1947 President Truman had appointed the Hoover Commission to make recommendations on executive reorganization in the federal government. In May 1955 the San Francisco Board

of Supervisors held a public hearing on the matter of Presidio land saying that it was city policy to request the federal government to release surplus lands at the Presidio and Fort Mason "as recommended by the Hoover Commission." A San Francisco lobbyist, Marvin Lewis, wanted the San Francisco National Cemetery moved from the Presidio. The president of the San Francisco Labor Council, Jack Goldberger, favored the building of private homes on the reservation. Valentine King from the Assessor's Office demanded that the Army specify the land necessary for national defense and release the remainder. Richard E. Doyle, executive vice president of the Associated Homebuilders of San Francisco, said that the people of San Francisco should be able to build their homes and the Presidio was the only open land left.

Favoring the Army's position to retain the reservation for military purposes were such organizations as the Sierra Club, Garden Club, Marina Protective Association, and the Civic Improvement Association. Robert Lilienthal, president of the Presidio Society, rose to say that the Hoover Commission had never approved any recommendations with regard to the Presidio.[23]

Maj. Earle K. Stewart, the post historian, proposed that the Presidio produce a history of the reservation and the other military installations in the Bay Area from the Spanish period to the "New Presidio" of 1955. Col. C. E. Lundquist, deputy post commander, advised Sixth U.S. Army to show how much money the Presidio poured into the San Francisco economy annually and how much it would cost taxpayers to move the Sixth U.S. Army. He added somewhat mysteriously, "when the present project of uncovering old casemates for use of underground shelters is completed, this station will have facilities to protect installations against thermonuclear attack without parallel in the United States."[24]

The Presidio's heavy guns continued to fire. In 1957 Sixth U.S. Army's commander, Lt. Gen. Robert N. Young, wrote the Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker listing reasons why the Army should stay at the Presidio: Nike battery, National Guard antiaircraft unit on site, headquarters for two antiaircraft artillery battalions, the Presidio's support for all Nike operations in the Bay Area, headquarters Sixth U.S. Army, communications facilities, and the fact that 19 Reserve units trained there. A four-page unsigned statement, "Information Concerning The Presidio of San Francisco" appeared in 1958 saying that conveying all or part of the Presidio to the City and County of San Francisco was "unsound for functional, economic, and civic reasons." If the Sixth U.S. Army moved, San Francisco would be the loser.[25]

By 1961, the Army had convinced most San Franciscans that the Presidio was an important military installation. A press release pointed out that the presence of Sixth U.S. Army headquarters and other army activities poured $380 million into the Bay Area yearly. Also, 40,000 retired army personnel contributed $14 million. A citizen wrote Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, "The Presidio is to the West what Fort Ethan Allen and Yorktown are to the East, the Alamo to the Southwest, and Mount Vernon to the Nation."[26]

Through the decade an array of distinguished personalities paraded across the Presidio stage. In 1948 Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the World War II commander of all land, sea, and air forces in the Pacific Ocean area, visited. A year later India's Madame Nehru Pandit placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier at the national cemetery. An honor guard turned out for a group of Turkish general officers in 1947, and again in 1948 for Vice Adm. Sir William Tennant, HMS *Sheffield*, Royal Navy. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer accompanied Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall on a visit in February 1949 (honor guard and a 19-gun salute). A few months later Wedemeyer succeeded General Clark as the Sixth U.S. Army commander. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, the first chairman of the permanent Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the historic officers' club in 1950. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, the Presidio hosted the eight state governors from the Sixth U.S. Army's area of responsibility. In January 1952 ceremonies were held in honor of the visit of French cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc*. That September, another secretary of the army, Frank Pace, made a 4-day visit to the reservation.[27]

The headquarters post, in addition to receiving dignitaries and leaders from around the world, experienced the accomplishments and occasional disappointments that the daily routines brought. Fire remained an ever-present danger. In 1947 fire slightly damaged the Chapel of Our Lady [45]. The next year a post exchange warehouse burned to the ground. Reminiscent of the 1915 Pershing fire, in 1951 the quarters of Capt. Ellus Burns [1290B] at Fort Winfield Scott was hit with a disastrous fire. Mrs. Burns and her oldest child suffered burns and were hospitalized at Letterman. The two younger children succumbed to the flames. The Burns' neighbor, Capt. Loren Pace, suffered superficial burns in rescuing the survivors.

On July 4, 1947, a large crowd of soldiers and citizens gathered at the Presidio to witness a fireworks display at Crissy Field. In 1952 an estimated 70,000 people arriving in 22,000 autos watched the July 4 fireworks. That fall the Presidio's flags flew at half-staff and guns boomed a 21-gun salute as SS *Honda Knot* entered San Francisco harbor bearing bodies from Pacific battlefields. On December 16, 1947, the army band serenaded General Clark's mother on her

When General Mark Clark became Commanding General of the Sixth Army, he decided that the organization needed a bagpipe band. This 1950 photograph, taken in front of the new Enlisted Service Club, 135 (later converted to a Noncommissioned Officers' Club), documented the appearance of the "Sixth Army Pipe Band" before a subsequent commanding general had it converted back to a more orthodox marching band. *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr.*

birthday. Col. Charles D'Orsa left the Presidio in February 1949 for Nevada to coordinate disaster relief operations in areas buried in snow.[28] In 1949 the Presidio became the supporter of yet another school, this time for the Military Police. On July 1, 1949, a new weekly newspaper, *The Presidian* began publication. Later called *Star Presidian*, the paper continued publication until the final issue on June 19, 1995. Though in days past, only officers could play on the Presidio golf course, in August 1951, Pvt. Bill Rowe of the 701st Military Police Battalion won the Presidio golf tournament. And on September 12, a dedication ceremony was held for the new 105-foot flagstaff erected on the site of the Pershing house fire, Pershing Square.

One of the more stirring happenings at the Presidio was the establishment of a 20-man Bagpipe Band under Chief Warrant Officer Millard F. Crary in 1949. After its premiere on Armed Forces Day in 1950, the band went on to much acclaim in the States, Hawaii, and Canada. Another organization of renown, the Sixth U.S. Army Honor Guard (3 officers and 80 enlisted men) was organized in 1952. In addition to the main marching unit there was the

four-man color guard. A 16-man drill team called the Presidians underwent six months of training to perfect its routine. The Guard's uniform was army dress blue with gold shoulder knots, gold breast cords, white belts with brass buckles bearing the unit insignia, white gloves, black boots with white laces, white scarves, and chrome helmets. Designated Detachment A, 6002 ASU, it was reduced in strength in 1957 to a company headquarters and two rifle platoons.[29]

A publicity release in 1957 set forth in detail the strengths and missions of both Sixth U.S. Army headquarters and the Presidio of San Francisco. The army headquarters consisted of 379 officers, 447 enlisted men, and 742 civilians. Many important military establishments were located in the eight states, including two infantry divisions at Forts Ord and Lewis. Camp Irwin in California was an important armored training center. Altogether, 86 army installations with 66,000 Regular Army military personnel and 11,000 civilian employees comprised the Sixth U.S. Army area. In addition, headquarters controlled 172,000 U.S. Army Reserve personnel and supervised the training of 50,000 personnel in the National Guard and 25,000 ROTC students. Also at the Presidio, the Joint Center for the senior commanders of the three Armed Forces for the western United States met regularly to develop defense plans and for disaster relief planning.

The Presidio also housed the headquarters of the U.S. Army Military District, California (90 officers, 188 enlisted men, 182 civilians) that controlled reserve activities for California. No fewer than 21 Army Reserve units in the Bay Area trained at the Presidio evenings and weekends. Eleven active army units, including the 1,000-man 30th Engineer Group (Topographical Survey) called the Presidio home. The daily work force at the Presidio in 1957 amounted to more than 6,000 military and civilian personnel.[30]

Various maps and publications prepared for newcomers and visitors to the Presidio listed the locations of the different offices and sites. They noted that the early Spanish/Mexican burying ground was in the vicinity of the brick barracks [103] (as was indicated on early American maps). One map named the Wherry housing the "Presidio Park Apartments." The bachelor pilots' quarters [951] (Scott Hall) now housed WAC officers (in 1955). At the same time the Mine (Torpedo) Wharf was called the "U.S. Navy Pier." The Crissy Field headquarters building [651] housed the headquarters of the 30th Engineer Group. Fort Winfield Scott's band barracks [1214] was the post provost marshal's office. The *Star Presidian* staff found office space in the old cavalry barracks [87]. A "cafeteria snack bar" operated in the basement of post

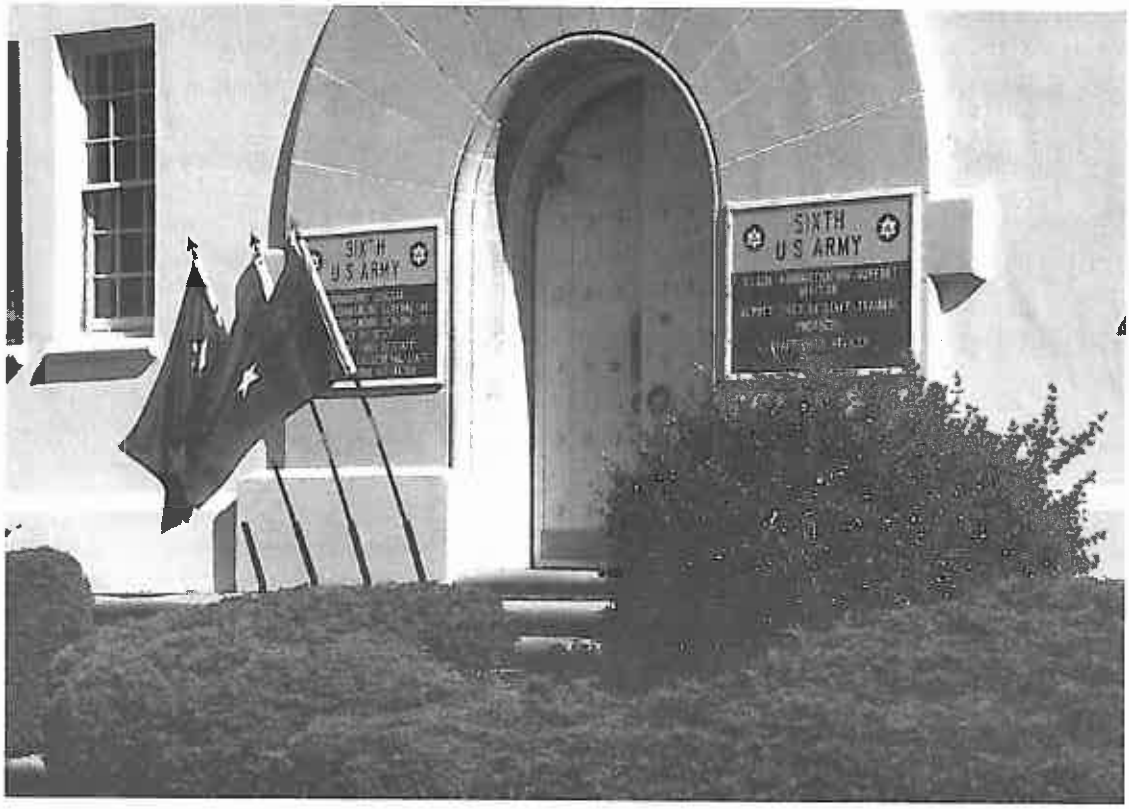
Calvary barracks 86 and 87, built during the Civil War. Remodeled in 1885 into two-story barracks. It was occupied by army offices during World War I when the second-story porches were enclosed and glazed. View toward the northwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1989.*

headquarters [220]. The Presidio established a "pitch and putt" golf course in open space between rows of noncommissioned officers' quarters in the 700 area. The Sixth U.S. Army Band found ample quarters in one of the brick barracks [100], and the Sixth U.S. Army library was located in a warehouse [1188] near the Palace of Fine Arts. One map warned that the entrance gates at Marina and Gorgas avenues closed at 6 P.M.[31]

The Army and the Presidio, 1960–1980

As the headquarters of Sixth U.S. Army observed its twentieth anniversary at the Presidio in 1966, it took note of its missions and activities. Seven years later, 1973, it underwent a major reorganization that resulted in a reduction of both missions and personnel but a great increase in its geographical responsibilities.

In the 1960s the Sixth U.S. Army in the eight western states controlled 30 army installations that had 57,000 active army troops. Headquarters also controlled or supervised the training of more than a quarter million National Guard, Army Reserve, Reserve Officer Training



Sixth U.S. Army headquarters, including the offices of the commanding general and other general officers, in former barracks 38, 1990. *Erwin Thompson, 1994.*

Corps, and National Defense Cadet Corps personnel. The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, composed the major troop unit. Other important installations included the U.S. Army Infantry Training Center and U.S. Army Combat Developments Command, both at Fort Ord, and U.S. Army Armor and Desert Training Center at Fort Irwin. Camp Desert Rock in Nevada, 1951–1955, housed up to 6,000 personnel during nuclear weapons testing programs at the Nevada Test Site. The reserve forces maintained headquarters at Fort Lawton, Washington (X U.S. Army Corps) and the Presidio of San Francisco (XV U.S. Army Corps). The Sixth Region (San Francisco and Los Angeles) and Seventh Region (Puget Sound) constituted the U.S. Army Air Defense Command (Nike missiles) in the Sixth U.S. Army area. The Sixth Region established its headquarters at Fort Baker, then a subpost of the Presidio of San Francisco.

In 1970 the Sixth U.S. Army outlined six operational and tactical considerations for maintaining its headquarters at the Presidio:

Extensive underground emergency facilities

San Francisco was the focal point for strategic operations pointed at the Pacific

Emergency operations center facilities included partial underground communications facilities exclusive of the above

U.S. Army Air Defense Command defense sites defending the Bay Area

The Bay Area location of other major headquarters — U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines, and U.S. Coast Guard

San Francisco being the hub of transportation and communications[32]

Following the war in Vietnam, the Department of the Army, in a major reorganization, discarded the concepts of a Continental Army Command of six armies and a Combat Development Command in 1973. The new concept called for the amalgamation of all deployable (mobile) combat elements — regular, reserve, and National Guard — in the Army of the United States within U.S. Army Forces Command. The U.S. Army Forces Command consisted of only three armies — First, Fifth, and Sixth — with the mission of immediate readiness for field service.

In January 1973, the headquarters of the Sixth U.S. Army announced the impact of the reorganization. It said that effective August 1 it would be relieved of all missions except that of ensuring the maximum combat readiness of the Army Reserve and National Guard in the 15 states that now would compose the Sixth U.S. Army area. This meant that all active duty installations, such as the Presidio of San Francisco, would now be under U.S. Army Forces Command and not Sixth U.S. Army. It also meant a reduction in the size of headquarters, particularly in the number of civilian employees.[33]

In 1970 the following units were assigned to the Presidio proper:

Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison
6th U.S. Army Veterinary Detachment
16th Base Post Office
163d Military Police Company
30th Military Police Battalion
Armed Forces Police Detachment
U.S. Army Support Detachment.[34]

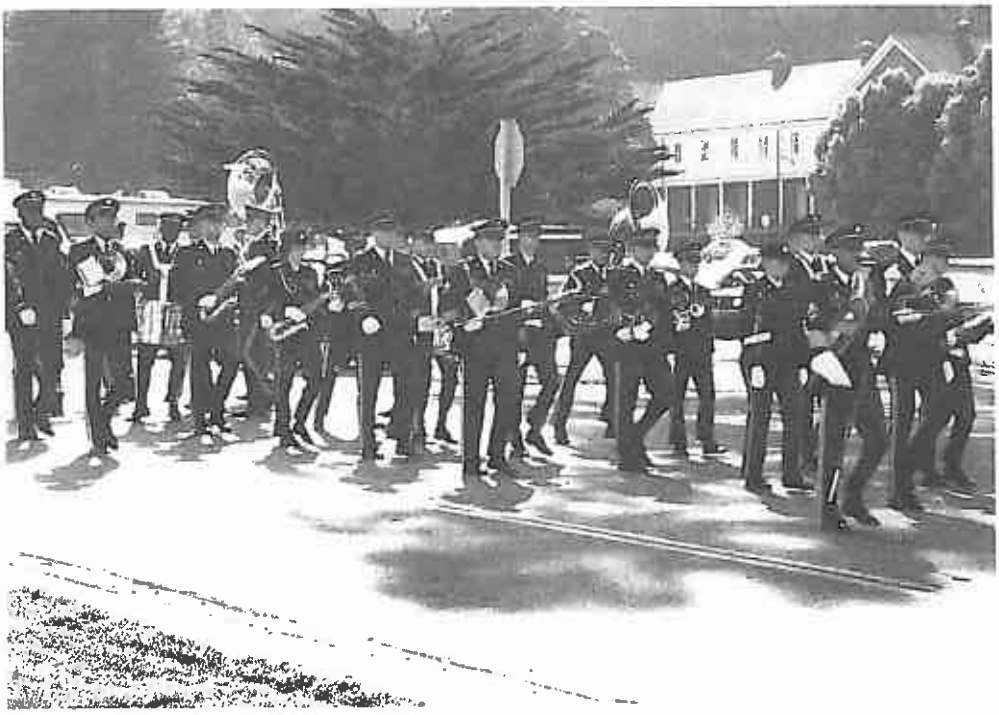
Burlington Northern boxcar no. 234020. One of the last freight cars delivered to the Presidio by the San Francisco Belt Railroad, shown here on March 26, 1972. Last known use of the tracks was the Bicentennial Train exhibited here in 1976, although locomotive 4449 could not pass through the Fort Mason tunnel and was left at Aquatic Park. *Photograph by Ted Wurm.*

In 1973 Herbert A. Gale, employed at the Presidio's Directorate of Facilities Engineering, compiled a list of organizations on the military reservation and the quarters they occupied. He listed the following for the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters:

The headquarters itself [35, 36, 37, 38, and 39]
Sixth U.S. Army Band [100]
MARS Station [314]
Pictorial Branch [603]
Audio Visual Branch [603]
Sixth U.S. Army Flight Detachment, building 639 (no longer extant)
Sixth U.S. Army Medical Laboratory, building 696 (unidentified)
Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army Special Troops [36 and 101]
Sixth U.S. Army Stock Control Center [651]
87th Ordnance Detachment, building 233 (no longer extant)
548th Ordnance Detachment [223]
U.S. Army Courier Station [222]
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation (Division) Command [106] (San Francisco Field Office [1009])
U.S. Army Logistics Doctrine, Systems and Readiness Agency, building 914 (no longer extant)
U.S. Army Physical Evaluation Board [1016]

Above: Fourteen musicians of the 42-piece Sixth U. S. Army Band appear in dress blue uniforms in front of band barracks, 106, on October 1, 1964, with their latest trophies from band concerts at Pinole, San Bruno, and Newark, California. The band received sixty-three trophies in ten years of competition, 1954-1964. Star Presidian *photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Sixth U. S. Army Band marching to a retirement ceremony at the Presidio of San Francisco. *Erwin Thompson, 1994.*



United States Army Reserve facilities on the reservation:

Air Section, 124th ARCOM and AMSA (A) (Aircraft) 27, buildings 232 and 236 (no longer extant)
Golden Gate USAR Center, buildings 361–364 (no longer extant) and former building 387 (now used for a child care center, ca. 1988)
San Francisco USAR Center, buildings 649 and 916 (no longer extant)
6227th USAR School [904 and 915]
6253d U.S. Army Hospital (USAR), buildings 903, 907, 908, 911, and 916 (no longer extant)

In 1975 a guide to the Presidio of San Francisco listed a few additional organizations assigned to the Presidio:

525th Military Intelligence Group headquarters
Sixth Region, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
U.S. Army Sixth Recruiting District headquarters

Also on the reservation at this time were the Letterman General Hospital, the XV U.S. Army Corps headquarters, and the Air Defense personnel stationed at Fort Winfield Scott. The entire military population, including civilian employees, amounted to about 10,000 people. In the early 1960s, probably in 1963, the Presidio prepared a booklet outlining community service facilities for newcomers and their families. From this booklet one obtains an appreciation of what the newly arrived private or lieutenant found on the famous and ancient army post:

Chapel Annex, Fort Scott [1390], a drug seminar group meeting three mornings a week, Protestant service on Sunday (no mention of the chapel 1389 itself)

Religious Activities Center [682] (former barracks)

Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess [1331] (former officers' club)

Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess (Tiki Annex) (former building 257 — no longer extant) (former World War II Annex A), Lounge, bar, cocktail lounge, dining room, ballroom

Officers' Open Mess, Fort Scott Log Cabin [1299]. Bar and cocktail lounge

Officers' Open Mess, Letterman (former building 1148 — no longer extant). Cocktail lounge and dining area (by 1975 a noncommissioned officers' club)

Presidio Service Club [135]. Main lounge, Prince room, game room, juke box room, refreshment area, television room

Presidio Teen Club (former building 1021 — no longer extant) (west of Thompson Hall)

Automobile Shop [662] (former stable)

Multi-Craft Shop [122] (former gymnasium)

Photo Lab Shop [117] (former machine gun shed)

Post Library [386]

Indoor Small Bore Range, .22 caliber [1369]

Fort Scott Softball Fields [1209 and 1215], and Multi-Court [1222] (the latter — two basketball and two volleyball courts, all outside)

Paul Goode Baseball/Football Field [768]

Pop Hicks Little League Baseball Field [806]

Post Exchange Softball Field [368] (softball, modified football, and basketball court)

Bowling Center [1387] (former theater)

Fort Scott Gymnasium [1226]

Letterman Gymnasium [1152]

Physical Fitness Room [basement of building 122]

Presidio Post Gymnasium [63]. Basketball, sauna, two handball courts, squash court, exercise room, dressing rooms

El Polin Picnic Area

Fort Scott Picnic Area, Rob Hill [1474]. (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on weekends)

Letterman Swimming Pool, 50 meters [1151]

Post Swimming Pool, basement of former building 69 (former YMCA building, no longer extant)

Infantry Terrace Tennis Courts [384]

Fort Scott Tennis Court [1333]

Nursery Tennis Court [582] (former East Cantonment)

Parade Ground Tennis Court [96]

Post Theater, 800 seats [99]

Presidio Playhouse, 190 seats (former building 239 — no longer extant)

Army Community Service Volunteers' Lounge (former building T-200 — no longer extant)

Post Conference Room [in building 220][35]

Other construction activities during the 1960s and 1970s at the Presidio included the building of the American Battle Monuments Commission's "West Coast Memorial to the Missing" at Fort Winfield Scott. A curved wall of California granite, set in a grove of Monterey pine and cypress, bore the names of 412 members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the offshore Pacific coastal waters during World War II. At the right of the memorial Sculptor Jean de Marco created a figure of Columbia. Architects Hervey Parke Clark and John F. Beuttler of San Francisco were the designers. At the dedication on November 29, 1960, Gen. John L. DeWitt and Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz delivered addresses.[36]

Also in 1960 the Presidio's telephone system [67] acquired a new million-dollar, completely mechanized exchange, and a new "100 pair plastic covered cable" installed across the Golden Gate Bridge provided the Marin forts with direct dialing. Because of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the Presidio identified those structures on the reservation that could serve as fallout shelters in 1962: Batteries Howe-Wagner, Marcus Miller, Godfrey, and Crosby; mine casemates, enlisted barracks at Fort Winfield Scott; old Fort Point; the basements of current buildings 38 and 39 at the main post; and the vault in current building 35.[37]

In 1964 the *Star Presidian* carried an article on the Sixth U.S. Army Parachute Field Maintenance Shop [920] at former Crissy Field. The shop, recently enlarged, handled all parachute services to all army aviation in the Sixth U.S. Army area, including the reserves and the National Guard. Each of the six soldiers assigned to the shop had to make one jump every month — from a repacked parachute chosen at random. The shop's motto was "Try Jumping Without Us." One change that did not occur in 1964 was the proposed closing of the historic Lombard Street entrance gate and the opening of a new entrance at Filbert Street. The construction of the new Letterman Hospital had brought about this proposal. When the San Francisco City's Planning Commission opposed this change because of the historical associations with the Lombard gate, the Army acquiesced.[38]

Crissy Field's bachelor officers' quarters [951] (Scott Hall) most recently had served as women officers' quarters. The Presidio's newspaper announced in 1965 that the building, now known as Scott Hall, had been converted to a guest house. Newly arrived enlisted personnel and their families could stay there for 10 days while arranging for housing. The building contained 16 two-room apartments, two bachelor suites, and seven kitchens. The newspaper noted the beautiful spiral staircases and the French doors to the elegant lounge.[39]

The former Crissy Field barracks, Stilwell Hall [650], received a new occupant in 1967. The Biltwell Development Company, at a cost of $101,500, completed renovating the ground floor for the Sixth U.S. Army Stock Control project. Still under construction that year were two buildings at the main post. The two-story, masonry block Automatic Data Processing and Communications Center, [34], estimated to cost $814,500 (and later called the Logistics Control Activity), had reached 80 percent completion. The new post cafeteria [211] was only 44 percent complete. Its estimated cost amounted to $306,000. The Biltwell Company also completed a $967,300 contract to upgrade the plumbing, flooring, and lighting of the recently acquired Wherry housing project.[40]

The old post chapel [45] now the Chapel of Our Lady, underwent further remodeling in the early 1970s. A 864-square-foot addition allowed the building to have a narthex, nave, baptistery, side aisles, sanctuary, Blessed Sacrament altar, sacristy, altar boy room, confessionals, choir room, and utility rooms. Also at the south end of the old parade the ancient officers' club [50] received a large addition in 1972 at a cost of $1.25 million. The new structure contained a banquet-ballroom with stage and other rooms. Its bulk overshadowed the original historic structure.[41]

The Presidio acquired a large number of new housing units between 1966 and 1970, bringing to a climax the generations-long search for adequate lodging. In 1966 the Army erected 15 structures [850–864], mostly duplexes, on MacArthur Avenue and north of El Polin Spring for the families of noncommissioned officers. Three years later 12 additional buildings [808–820] were erected in the same area, along Quarry Road. Another 15 buildings for noncommissioned officers [772–791] varying from a single dwelling to four apartments in size, were constructed in the southeast corner of the reservation, also in 1969. Around 1970 another 11 apartment houses [1703–1713] for noncommissioned officers were erected in the southwest corner, in the vicinity of a former Nike missile battery site.

The old post Chapel, 45, now the Chapel of Our Lady, underwent a second renovation in the early 1970s, being further enlarged. Its west side now has a glass wall. *Erwin Thompson, 1991.*

During the same three years 24 duplexes for officers (17 in 1966 [1401–1425], and seven in 1969 [1431–1443]) were built in an area south of Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg and Rob Hill. In 1970 the Army constructed another 18 buildings — singles, duplexes, and triplexes [1211–1284] — for officers north of the main post at Fort Winfield Scott.[42]

The post veterinary facility that had been housed in the brick stable [668] moved in 1976 to the neighboring stable [663]. Before the move, the brick floor in building 663 was removed and a concrete floor was laid. Besides the post veterinarian, who examined both government and private animals, the Area Veterinary Food Inspection Activities occupied the building. Stable building 668 became the family housing furniture warehouse at this time while stable building 661 housed a MARS warehouse along with facilities for Boy Scouts. Stable 667 also served as a warehouse.[43]

During the 1960s and 1970s a large amount of other construction occurred at the Presidio of San Francisco:

Stable 668 built in 1914 for cavalry horses. It was altered in 1939 to serve as post veterinary hospital, serving both government and private animals and area veterinary food inspection activities. In 1976 it became a family housing furniture warehouse. *Quartermaster Building Record Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Main Post, 1–199

Transformer [109], 1968

Storage sheds [119, 120, and 121], ca. 1970

Lower Presidio — east, 200–299

Service stations [202 and 203], 1969

Exchange service station [206], 1969

Compressor building [207], 1969

Car wash [208], 1969

Transformer [209], 1968

Entomology building 269 (no longer extant), 1971

Heating plant/garage 278 (no longer extant), 1961

Water tank building [281], 1969

Golf Course Area, 300–399

Storage shed [302], 1961 (slated for removal in 1997 per the GMPA)

Maintenance/storage [303], 1969 (slated for removal in 1997 per the GMPA)

East Cantonment Area, 500–599
Cable TV receiver and tower [519], 1973
Switching station [568], 1969

Crissy Field — east, 600–699
Post exchange [605 and 606], 1972
Transformer enclosure [611], ca. 1970
Oil house [630], 1964
Motor pool warehouse [634], 1978
Standby generator platform [642], 1969
Flammable storage [659], 1973
Storage shed [665], 1979

Fort Winfield Scott, 1200–1399
Softball field [1215], 1960
Volleyball court [1222], 1969
Electric power plant [1228], 1967
Storage shed [1232], 1967
Diesel fuel tank [1260], 1969
Fuel storage tank [1264], 1972
Public toilet [1286], 1972
Motor repair shop/[1351], 1969
Garden tool shed [1386], 1960
Flammable storage [1388], 1960
Chemical training facility [1397], 1974

Rob Hill, 1400–1499
Water pump station [1400], 1966
Sentry station [1472], 1973
Guard tower [1473], 1970
Waiting shelters [1496–1498], 1973

Water Plant/Reserve Center, 1700–1769
U.S. Army Reserve Center [1750], 1970
Flagstaff [1751], 1970

Maintenance shop [1752], 1970
Flammable storage [1753], 1970
Wash platform [1754], 1970
Grease rack [1755], 1970
Transformer [1756], 1970
Sewage lift station [1774], 1965
Transformer enclosure [1775], 1960
Facility engineer [1777], 1973
Water pump house [1780], 1960
Well [1785], 1970
Well [1787], 1969
25th Avenue entrance gate [1799], 1962[44]

In June 1962 the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Presidio of San Francisco a National Historic Landmark. The following year, in February, the National Park Service's Lawrence C. Merriam, then the director of the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, presented a certificate and a plaque to the post commander, Col. W. S. McElhenny, in a ceremony at Pershing Square. Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes and Lt. Gen. John L. Ryan, Jr., commanding Sixth U.S. Army, attended the ceremony. Either then or within a year the plaque was mounted at the square and two Rodman guns from the Civil War era together with cannon balls formed the centerpiece at the commemorative site.[45]

The Presidio participated in the ceremonies attending the death of former President Herbert C. Hoover in October 1964. On the first day following the announcement of the death a cannon fired every half hour between 6:10 A.M. and 4:45 P.M. On October 22 a special 15-gun salute was fired at 8:00 A.M. at Fort Winfield Scott. On the day of the funeral, October 25, starting at reveille 50 rounds were fired at 3-second intervals. Then, at noon, the final 21 gun salute fired at 1-minute intervals.[46]

That same month the newspaper published a description of the old post hospital [2], saying that it then served as the post dispensary. The staff had greatly increased since the Civil War — 10 doctors, 38 enlisted men, civilian nurses, and WACs. The facilities consisted of a dental clinic, a physical examination section, an immunization section, a surgical dressing room for minor surgery, a pediatric clinic, an X-ray room, an eye clinic, an outpatient clinic, a pharmacy, and a medical supply laboratory. In 1967, however, the dispensary and dental functions

transferred to Letterman Hospital. For the time being the medics continued to use the building now called the Funston Avenue Annex.[47]

The Sixth U.S. Army and the Presidio of San Francisco continued all these years to contribute to the civilian community outside the gates. A survey of the *Star Presidian* for the years 1964 and 1965 showed the extent of these activities.

> Danville, California, airplane crash in 1964, 44 people killed. Presidio military police guarded the site and recovered the wreckage.
>
> Floods in Idaho and Montana 1964. Sixth U.S. Army aircraft and helicopters aided.
>
> "Pageant of Flags," San Francisco, 1964.
>
> Livermore, California, Presidio Sports Parachute Team presented a Sky Diving Show, 1964.
>
> International Day 1964. Foreign students guests at the Presidio.
>
> Floods in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest — "Operation Toothcomb;" Presidio coordinated with the American Red Cross, 1965.
>
> The Presidio hosted Bay Area newsmen 1965.
>
> Boy Scout Week, 1965.
>
> ROTC Choral Group performed in the Bay Area, 1965.
>
> Presidio developed a History Trail for Boy Scouts, 1965.[48]

Important personages continued to visit the reservation as they had in years past. In September 1966 Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson stopped at Crissy Field following the dedication of Point Reyes National Seashore. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and California's governor Edmund G. Brown accompanied the First Lady. Other visitors that year included Gen. Ming-tang Lai, Commander in Chief, Combined Forces, Republic of China (Nationalists); Brig. Gen. Mario Ballesteros Prieto, Chief of Staff, Secretariat of National Defense of Mexico; and Gen. Mayalarp Surakis, Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Army.[49]

An unusual event in 1967 involved two masked gunmen who robbed the Presidio post office, then as in 1995 in the former guardhouse [210]. These robbers escaped with more than $3,400.[50]

As early as 1950 the United States extended military aid to French forces fighting against communist-dominated belligerents in Southeast Asia. When France withdrew from the area in 1956, the number of American advisors to the South Vietnamese government increased to 750 men. By 1963, 23,000 American personnel were involved, two-thirds of them U.S. Army troops. American combat troops arrived in 1965. By the end of 1967 the United States Army in Vietnam had suffered more than 9,000 men killed and 60,000 wounded.

The Sixth U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division shipped from Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1966 and quickly became engaged in combat in Vietnam's central highlands. National Guard units and Army Reserves from the Sixth U.S. Army also went to Vietnam.

As early as the spring of 1964, protestors against the war organized in San Francisco and threatened to march upon the Presidio. On May 2 several hundred persons marched to the Lombard Street gate demanding entrance. Lt. Col. Henry C. Becker, the Presidio's provost marshal, met the protestors and denied their request to hold a rally on the reservation. Declaring they had made their point, the protestors quietly dispersed. A year later, a small peace group sought to hold a walk and a picnic on Presidio grounds on Armed Forces Day. The post commander, Col. Robert W. Clirehugh, denied their request, too. Protests against the war outside the Presidio continued. In November 1967 200 demonstrators gathered to protest the court martial of a soldier who refused to go to Vietnam.[51]

In 1968 the stockade building [1213], at Fort Winfield Scott was filled to overflowing with army prisoners. In July six prisoners managed to escape. Because of the resulting rumors of the overcrowdedness and unsanitary conditions, the Army invited members of the press to inspect the facilities. In general they reported the stockade to be a drab but sanitary building. To reduce the overcrowdedness the Army planned to put the minimum security men in a separate building nearby and surround both buildings with a fence.[52]

On October 11, 1968, Pvt. Richard J. Bunch, prisoner, attempted to escape from a work detail and was shot and killed. The soldier guarding the detail later testified that Bunch asked to stop work for a drink of water. He said to the guard, "If you promise to shoot me, I'll run." After the drink Bunch said, "I don't think you'd really shoot," and broke into a run. The guard yelled "Halt" twice before he fired, killing the prisoner.[53]

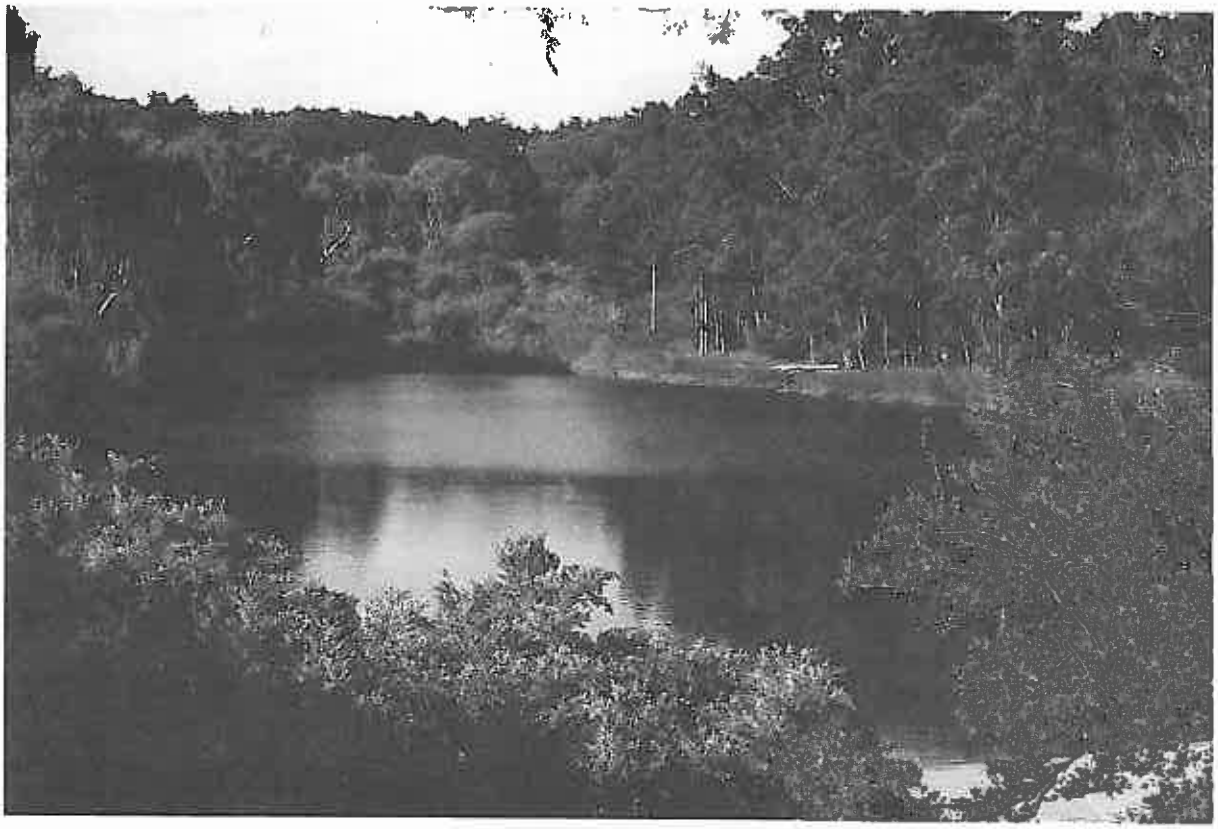
NPS drawing no. 641-20495.

Three days later, 27 prisoners, protesting the shooting, refused to work and commenced a sit-down. The Army confined the men, warning them that they could be charged with mutiny and face the death penalty. San Francisco attorney Terence Hallinan, a protestor against the war, leaped to the prisoners' defense calling the stockade a latter-day Dachau and asking for a habeas corpus hearing in an attempt to free them. Newspapers far and wide carried the story in that time of discontent, their headlines demanding attention: "Presidio Brutality Charges Taken to Court," "*Mutiny*, GIs† Denied Hearing," "Lawyer Hallinan Accused. Meeting `Plot' Charged," "The Presidio 27," "Can't Stand it Any More, Soldier Sobs."

The trials took place at Camp Irwin, California. Of the 27 men three had already escaped. The courts martial found all 24 guilty of mutiny and they received prison sentences ranging from three months to 15 years and either a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge. Reviews of the findings were conducted by the Sixth U.S. Army, the Department of the Army, and by a court of review. In the end the court of review threw out the offense of mutiny but sustained findings of guilty of willful disobedience of a superior commissioned officer. The longest incarceration was one soldier for one year; most received sentences of from six to eight months; in one case the charges were dismissed.[54]

The *New York Times* revisited the Presidio stockade story in June 1970. Current building 1213 no longer housed military prisoners; the "stockade" now was composed of three small cream-colored barracks-like buildings surrounded by wire fencing. Its population had declined to an average of 25. Deserters and AWOLs in the Sixth U.S. Army Area now went directly to Fort Ord. The three prisoners who had escaped were believed to be living in Canada.[55]

A more positive aspect of the war in Vietnam occurred at the Presidio in 1975 after the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam. On April 3 the first air flights carrying orphans from the war-torn country arrived at the Presidio. The Army adapted the reserve center, Harmon Hall [649] as the reception center for the children. When that building became full, two World War II barracks (former buildings 917 and 910 — no longer extant) were pressed into service. By April 13 all the orphans had been absorbed into the civilian community. Hardly had the Presidio caught its breath when more orphan flights delivered their tiny passengers on April 22. The last of these departed the Presidio on May 4. All told the Presidio housed, clothed, fed, medically treated, and processed 1,318 Vietnam orphans in a most satisfactory manner that lovely spring.[56]



Mountain Lake, near which Anza camped in 1776 when he established the Presidio of San Francisco for the king of Spain. The country side was much more open then. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, May 1991.*

In 1972 the U.S. Congress created the Golden Gate National Recreation Area that encompassed shoreline areas of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties. Congressman Phillip Burton introduced the bill and influenced it to include the Presidio of San Francisco within the area's boundaries. Any Presidio land that the military deemed surplus was to be turned over to the National Park Service. Fort Point had become a national historic site in 1970 and now the Army permitted a portion of Crissy Field alongside the bay and Baker Beach alongside the ocean, a total of 44.7 acres, to the recreation area.

When the bill to establish the recreation area was still pending in Congress, some San Franciscans became alarmed at army plans for new construction on the reservation and the resulting loss of open space. Representative William S. Mailliard prevailed on Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to block construction temporarily. In August 1970 San Francisco newspapers announced that the Army had suspended all new construction at the Presidio until the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation completed a study of all public lands in the Bay Area prior to the planning of the proposed recreation area. About that time citizens became alarmed that

The old post hospital built during the Civil War and later serving as post dispensary, dental clinic, and a drug rehabilitation center. It was dedicated as the Presidio Army Museum on July 4, 1974. John Phillip Langellier became its first director. *Erwin Thompson, 1991.*

the Presidio had cut down 340 trees for construction. The Army quickly countered that it had already planted 3,000 replacements. Finally, in November 1970 San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto and the Army's Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen reached an agreement on keeping the Presidio "green."[57]

In 1978 the Defense Department initiated a "base realignment study" to investigate the Presidio to determine if it should be discontinued. The resulting study, issued in 1979, concluded that the Presidio should continue as a permanent installation.[58]

On July 4, 1974, the U.S. Army established the Presidio Army Museum in the Civil War post hospital [2]. John Phillip Langellier became its first director and Eric Saul the curator. Under their direction, with the funding support of the Fort Point Museum Association (later renamed Fort Point and Army Museum Association and finally Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association), first-class exhibits telling the story of the Presidio and its role in the

Bay Area took shape. At the same time the museum developed an archival collection and a library. Three years later, a dedication ceremony attended the opening of a second floor and exhibits that illustrated the army career of Gen. Joseph Stilwell and World Wars I and II.[59]

Fort Winfield Scott, 1946–1978

Fort Winfield Scott had gained its independence as a separate post in 1912. Thirty-four years later, at the close of World War II the fort once again became a subpost of the Presidio of San Francisco. On June 1, 1946, the U.S. Army's Coast Artillery School was transferred to Fort Winfield Scott from Fort Monroe, Virginia, and was renamed the Artillery School, Seacoast. Emphasis now centered on antiaircraft defense.

Among the school's early commanders was Maj. Gen. William S. Lawton who had served at the fort in the 1930s as commandant of the West Point Preparatory School. In 1947 General Lawton hosted 600 state, civic, business, and military leaders from northern and central California on a tour of the much reduced Harbor Defenses of San Francisco complete with displays and demonstrations of antiaircraft weapons.[60]

That the traditional coastal defenses had become obsolete became clear in a 1948 army document that declared as obsolete Fort Winfield Scott's Batteries Marcus Miller, McKinnon-Stotsenberg, Howe-Wagner, Saffold, Godfrey, and Cranston. All but the last became available for storage. Battery Cranston now served as classrooms for the Artillery School. For Army Day 1949 the school set up exhibits for the visiting public: 90mm dual purpose rifle, SCR 584 radar set, 155mm rifle, and antiaircraft and beach defense operations.[61]

In 1954 the field artillery's era of rockets and missiles began with the first troop unit firing of a Corporal missile at Fort Bliss, Texas. That year the Nike Ajax missile became operational in the Bay Area. It was capable of destroying a single enemy bomber at a distance of 30 miles. Before that, in 1951, Fort Baker in Marin County had become the headquarters for the "Western Army Antiaircraft Command" and on March 10, 1952, the headquarters of the 47th Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA) Brigade arrived at Fort Baker as the parent organization for antiaircraft artillery units in eight western states. Fort Winfield Scott became the headquarters of the 30th Artillery Group and one of its two battalions (the 9th AAA Gun Battalion, with 120mm guns) and the headquarters of the 718th and 728th Gun Battalions (90mm guns).

Fort Winfield Scott became the headquarters of the 30th Artillery Group (Antiaircraft)—120mm guns, in 1952, and the headquarters of the 718th and 728th Gun Battalions—90mm guns. *U. S. Army photograph, copy negative at NPS, Western Regional Office.*

whose batteries were spread over the Bay Area. These weapons were phased out over the next few years as Nike missiles arrived in California.[62]

By 1954 the headquarters of the 30th Antiaircraft Artillery Group had moved from Fort Winfield Scott to Fort Barry. The first Nike Ajax missiles were activated at temporary locations in the Bay Area and the 740th AAA Battalion, which had been stationed at Fort Winfield Scott since 1952, was redesignated a Missile Antiaircraft Battalion or AAA Missile Battalion. Congressmen visited Battery B's Nike site in 1955. By then it had been named Battery Caulfield, the only Nike battery given a name, and otherwise designated as Site SF-89. It was named for an earlier battery commander, Lt. Col. Thomas D. Caulfield. On Armed Forces Day 1956, the Army invited the public for its first view of the 740th Battalion's Nike missiles and the California National Guard's 90mm guns at the fort. The *Star Presidian* carried an article saying the battalion headquarters and launcher areas were at Fort Winfield Scott and the control area on Mount Sutro.[63]

In October 1957 Fort Winfield Scott became the site of another army school, the Air Defense School, operated by the 30th AAA Group. Located in current building 1208, a former barracks, the school trained in Nike operations employing Battery B, 740th AAA Missile Battalion, as the school battery.

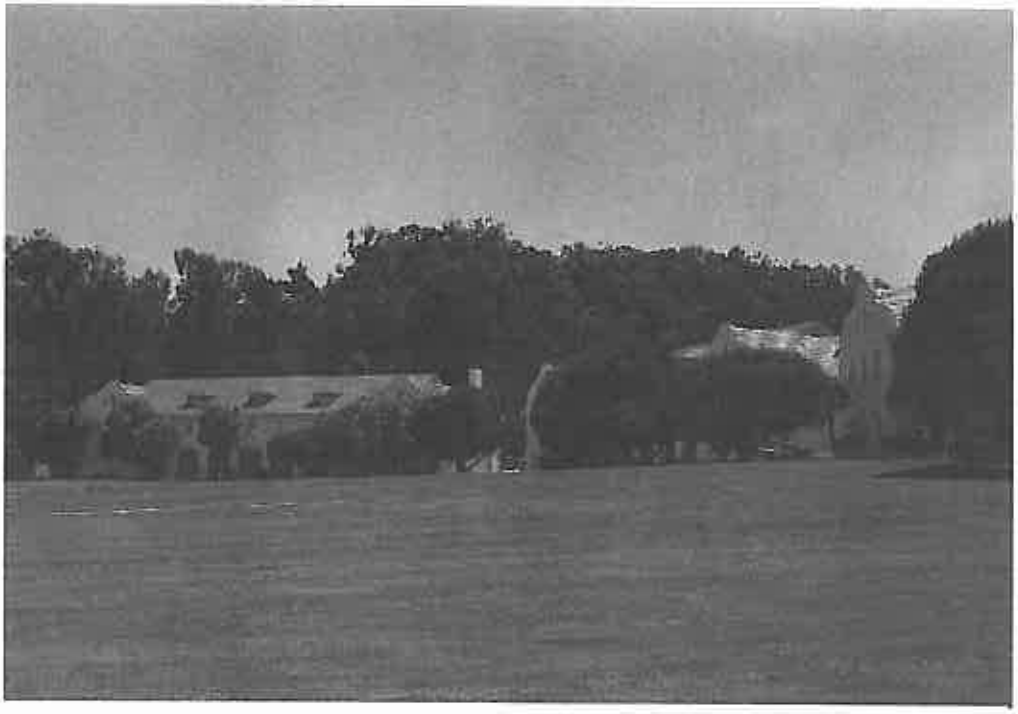
An advanced version of the Nike missile, the Hercules, was introduced to the Bay Area in 1958. Longer and heavier than the Ajax, Nike Hercules had more than twice the range and could be fitted with a nuclear warhead. By that time conventional antiaircraft gun units had been eliminated for strategic defense purposes.[64]

Early in 1959 the headquarters of the 30th Artillery Group (Air Defense) returned to Fort Winfield Scott to make way for a new unit at Fort Barry. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery occupied the former headquarters [1201] and barracks [1202]. There were now three Nike organizations at the fort: the 30th's headquarters; the headquarters and Battery B of the Missile Battalion; and the Air Defense School. About that time Congressman Phil Weaver of Nebraska blasted the Fort Winfield Scott missile site saying that the Army operated it with "shocking laxity." The site was too close to the golf course, had too few guards, and was operational only eight hours a day. The Army denied the charges.[65]

In 1960 the 4th Missile Battalion, 61st Artillery, moved out of its headquarters building [1648], and departed; a unit from the California National Guard took control of Battery Caulfield, which continued to be armed with the Nike Ajax. That May, on Armed Forces Day, the 40th Artillery Brigade, Army Air Defense Command, at Fort Baker opened all missile sites, including Scott's, to public inspection. Two years later, 1962, the headquarters of the 40th moved to Scott. Brigade headquarters occupied post headquarters [1201]. Other buildings occupied by the 40th were current building 1218 (former barracks), current building 1219 (former storehouse), current building 1221 (former gas station and now a motor pool), current building 1227 (former shop and now radar maintenance), and Battery Saffold (now communications equipment storage). By then the missile school was known as the San Francisco Army Defense School. In 1962 also the commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Command inspected the San Francisco missile defenses. Although Battery Caulfield had been inactivated by then, an Honor Guard at Fort Winfield Scott greeted the general. The Nike era was ending, however, and in February 1974 the *San Francisco Chronicle* announced that all Nike Hercules batteries, including the four sites remaining in the Bay Area, would be closed.[66] The United States now turned its attention to the development of a Ballistic Missile Defense

Above: Fort Winfield Scott headquarters building flanked by barracks. Left to right: 1218, 1201, and 1202. By 1959 three Nike missile organizations occupied the post. View toward the south. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1991.*

Below: Fort Winfield Scott, looking southeast across the parade ground toward barracks with mess halls 1216, 1217, and 1218. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1991.*



Fort Winfield Scott barracks: 1202, 1203, and 1204. View toward the southwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1992.*

System, by which a missile would be launched into stationary orbit. Once that missile located a group of attacking missiles, it would determine which among them were real warheads. It would then fire multiple warheads to intercept the targets. Military posts in the Bay Area would not be involved.

Earlier this study noted the presence of the 99th Engineer Company, 30th Engineer Group (Topographical Survey) that arrived at Fort Winfield Scott from Hawaii in 1950. It was but the vanguard. Soon the entire 30th Group, more than 1,000 men, took up quarters at the fort. For the next several years it remained the largest single troop unit on the Presidio reservation. It spent the summer months each year in Alaska compiling an accurate topographic map of the territory. A partial listing of the buildings occupied by the 30th Group included the following structures (building numbers are current):

Headquarters and Headquarters Company — barracks 1218
Photomapping plant, 21st Engineer Company — storehouse 1242
Reproduction plant, 99th Engineer Company — storehouse 1244
Relief map plant, 171st Engineer Detachment — storehouse 1244

The centennial tree, left, planted in 1876 by post trader Angelo Beretta, and the U.S. Army's bicentennial tree on the right, 1976, on the main parade ground. *Erwin Thompson, 1991.*

21st Engineer Company mess — barracks 1216
99th Engineer Company mess — barracks 1217
549th Engineer Company mess — barracks 1204

Other units included the 660th Engineer Battalion and the 521st Engineer Company.[67]

The Department of the Army published a letter on July 25, 1956, that once again marked an end to Fort Winfield Scott's official existence:

> Fort Winfield Scott is an integral part of Presidio of San Francisco, California. The home station of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Group (Topo Survey) and attached units will be known as Presidio of San Francisco, California in lieu of *Fort Winfield Scott*, California.[68]

In March 1958, the 30th Engineer Group was reduced in size to a battalion by the inactivation of several units. Then, in May 1959, the last unit, the 171st Engineer Detachment (Relief Map), was inactivated and the 30th Engineers ceased to be. Although "Fort Winfield Scott" was no longer an official designation, the area continued to go by that name. In 1964 eight Army Reserve units underwent two weeks of active duty training there, billeted in barracks [1205]. A year later the Army Education Center occupied barracks [1216]. It offered college courses and high school diplomas. The Fort Scott gymnasium [1226] underwent a complete face-lifting in 1965, offering two handball courts, a sauna, a weight lifting room, a half-court basketball and badminton, a locker room, and a lounge.[69]

Since World War II the Presidio had undergone many changes in missions, its garrison, physical plant, geographic area of responsibility, and new wars. The achievements of more than 30 years were observed on July 4, 1976, when the Presidio of San Francisco joined the nation in observing the bicentennial of the American Revolution. A bicentennial tree joined the centennial tree on the parade ground. That evening invited guests witnessed a multi-service, multination review and retreat ceremony on the main parade ground. The Presidio celebrated its bicentennial that evening, too.

Chapter 21 Notes:

1. In World War II, General Hays organized the 10th Infantry Division that trained as ski infantrymen at Camp Hale in the Colorado Rockies. Hays commanded the redesignated 10th Mountain Division in the difficult fighting in Italy's mountains. Promoted to lieutenant general in 1952, he retired in 1953. Frank Dow Merrill enlisted in the Army in 1922. After three years service in Panama he entered West Point. Graduating in 1929 he accepted a commission in the Cavalry. Merrill was assigned to Tokyo, in 1938. On December 7, 1941, Major Merrill was on a mission to Burma where, because of the attack on Pearl Harbor, he remained as a member of Stilwell's staff. In 1944 a United States-Chinese offensive began the reconquest of Burma. Brigadier General Merrill organized a reinforced regiment of U.S. soldiers that became known as Merrill's Marauders. He trained the men in jungle warfare techniques. The Marauders cut Japanese supply lines, defeated enemy forces, and made their way over seemingly impassable terrain to capture an important airfield. The regiment was disbanded later in 1944. Following a spell of ill health, General Merrill served as chief of staff, of the Tenth Army, during the battle for Okinawa. He retired in 1948 and died in Florida in 1955, at the age of 52. By October 1946 no fewer than ten brigadier generals were assigned to Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army. *Webster's Military Biographies*; PSF, "Post Diary, 1946–1953;" Army Almanac, pp. 79, 330, 657, and 714.

2. The armies: First U.S. Army, headquarters, Governors Island, New York City; Second U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort George C. Meade, Maryland; Third U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fourth U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fifth U.S. Army, headquarters, Chicago, Illinois; Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. *Army Almanac*, pp. 76–77. The armies were not designated *United States* Armies until January 1, 1957.

3. "Post Diary, 1946–1953;" Stewart and Erwin, p. 69.

4. L. R. Wolfe, May 29, 1946, to Commandant, Bakers and Cooks School, GCGF 1946, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

5. Tuchman, *Stilwell*, p. 528.

6. Richards, *Historic San Francisco*, p. 291; U.S. Army, Content Analysis of News Clippings Pertaining to Presidio Lands, April 1870 to January 1966, Master Plans, PSF. In 1945 the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin* wrote that 485 acres of Presidio land should be sold for housing. See also *Fortnight*, "$1 Housing Project?" December 30, 1946.

7. NPS, National Register of Historic Places, PSF; PSF, press release, September 18, 1947, PAM; Stewart and Erwin, p. 75; *Army and Navy Journal*, September 27 and November 22, 1947.

8. "Post Diary, 1946–1953;" *Army and Navy Journal*, May 17, 1947

9. *Army and Navy Journal*, July 5, 1947. Mark Wayne Clark, born at Madison Barracks, New York, the son of an army officer, graduated from West Point in 1917 and served in France in World War I. Stationed at several posts and attending army schools in the 1920s and 1930s, he worked on the expansion of the army in the early 1940s, becoming a brigadier general in 1941. A major general in 1942 he commanded U.S. ground forces in Great Britain. He carried out a secret and dangerous mission to gather information on Vichy (French) forces in North Africa prior to Allied landings there. He commanded the Fifth Army in Morocco. Next, his forces landed at Salerno, Italy, in 1943. He led the Fifteenth Army Group in Italy, advancing into Austria. Serving as the Allied high commissioner for Austria from 1945 to 1947, he then commanded the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. Later he commanded the United Nations forces in Korea, 1952–1953. General Clark retired in 1954, and died in 1985 at the age of 89. Dupuy et al., *Harper Encyclopedia*.

10. File: Presidio Service Club (History), PAM; File: NCO Mess and Service Club Buildings [former building 69 — no longer extant, and building 135], Master Plans, PSF.

11. Arthur S. Link, *American Epoch, A History of the United States Since the 1890s* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1958), p. 693; PSF, "Post Diary, 1946–1953;" NCO Mess and Service Club, Master Plans, PSF. The U.S. Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson led the American delegation at the service club. It is likely that preliminary or planning meetings concerning the peace treaty with Japan also occurred at the service club. Maj. Gen. Milton B. Halsey, Sixth U.S. Army's deputy commander at the time, arranged for his son, now Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr., attending the Citadel at that time, to be an observer for some of those meetings.

12. *Webster's Military Biographies*.

13. File: NCO Mess and Service Club Buildings, PAM; *Star Presidian*, November 20 and December 11 and 18, 1964; *San Francisco Examiner*, October 3, 1964 and May 18, 1966; *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 2, 1964; Voucher File 1971, Master Plans, PSF. Affairs did not go well for the privates at the Fort Winfield Scott building. In August 1965 a young woman was found murdered near the building. Still unsolved a year later, this incident led to the Army's decision to move the service club back to current building 135, to the Tiki Room in the basement. The main floor of the "NCO Open Mess" was off-limits to the privates who, if they were 18 1/2 years old, could drink 3.2 percent beer.

14. Joseph J. Hagwood, *Engineers at the Golden Gate, A History of the San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1866–1980* (1982), pp. 262 and 268; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 22, 1952; *Star Presidian*, May 9, 1958, August 2 and 16, and November 1, 1963; File: Wherry Housing, Master Plans, PSF; Sixth Army, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957. Under the Capehart Act, a revolving fund was established to insure mortgages on family housing constructed for military families. A major difference from the Wherry Act was that the Army assumed ownership upon completion. The Wherry housing and its carports are current buildings 1500 through 1598.

15. NPS, Presidio, National Register of Historic Places, Registration Forms.

16. File: Current building 215, PSF, Master Plans, PSF.

17. *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, January 18, 1952; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 18 and 21, 1952; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 23, 1952. Lt. Gen. Joseph May Swing, born in 1894, graduated from West Point and was commissioned in the field artillery in 1915. He served on the Punitive Expedition in Mexico, 1916, and in France during World War I. In the 1920s and 1930s Swing served at various posts and attended army schools. He was pro-

moted to major general in 1943 and he activated the 11th Airborne Division. In 1944 General Swing led the 11th Airborne in battle in New Guinea and in the Philippines. On August 30, 1945, he led the first air-transported troops to Atsugi Airfield, outside Tokyo. Lieutenant General Swing commanded the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco from 1951 to 1954. Data from the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

18. Files: "Chapels" and "The Chapel of Our Lady," PAM; Milton B. Halsey, Jr., "Point Paper, The Presidio Chapels" (ca. 1990).

19. *Star Presidian* May 28, 1954. The same issue announced that Civilian Personnel and Sixth U.S. Army Provost Marshal section now occupied the former light artillery barracks [36].

20. *Star Presidian*, November 12, 1954 and January 14 and 21, and May 21, 1955.

21. *Star Presidian* July 23, 1954 and April 1, 1955; U.S. Senate, 90th Cong., 2d sess., *Medal of Honor, 1863–1968, "In the Name of the Congress of the United States"* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1968), pp. 574–575.

22. Matloff, ed. *American Military History*, pp. 540 and 581; Booklet, Unofficial Guide, Presidio of San Francisco (1975), Master Plans, PSF; "Post Diary, 1946–1953;" *Star Presidian*, August 6 and 13, 1954.

23. Lt. Col. R. M. Johnson, April 11, 1950, to chief of staff; Col. A. C. Timbore, ca. 1955, memorandum for the record, both in "Presidio Land," PAM; *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 5, 1948; *Call-Bulletin*, October 1953.

24. Earle K. Stewart, May 17, 1955, to C. E. Lundquist; Lundquist, April 14, 1955, to Commanding General, Sixth Army. The 1949 manuscript history by Earle K. Stewart and Kenneth S. Erwin on the *Star Presidian* staff, that has been cited throughout this study was prepared as the result of the above events.

25. R. N. Young, January 4, 1957, to W. M. Brucker, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA—Pacific Sierra Region; "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," May 6, 1958, source lost.

26. Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army, press release, July 2, 1961; W. Keese, October 3, 1961, to McNamara, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA — Pacific Sierra Region.

27. PSF, "Post Diary, 1946–1953." Albert Cody Wedemyer graduated from West Point in 1919 and was commissioned in the Infantry. Following tours in the Philippines and China and attending a military academy in Germany, he was assigned to the General Staff in Washington in 1940. Promoted to major general in 1943 he served under Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten in Southeast Asia. Following the recall of General Stilwell, Wedemeyer became commander of the China theater and chief of staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, 1944. After the war he returned to China on a fact-finding mission. The U.S. Department of State suppressed his report that predicted Communism would triumph in China. He commanded the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio until his retirement in November 1948. Wedemeyer died in 1980 at the age of 94. Dupuy, *Harper Encyclopedia; Army and Navy Journal*, January 17, 1948.

28. A troop train bearing the writer from the east coast to San Francisco at that time became snow bound in the Wyoming wilderness. The train exhausted its supplies of fuel and food, and the soldiers huddled in their coaches until relief arrived from sunny California.

29. M. F. Crary, October 19, 1951, to CG, Sixth Army in file "Presidio Band;" Booklet, *History of the Sixth U.S. Army Honor Band*, both in PAM; *Star Presidian*, May 18, 1958.

30. Sixth U.S. Army, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957.

31. *Star Presidian*, September 16, 1955, map of the Presidio; *Star Presidian* May 18, 1957; Booklet, *Sixth Army Headquarters, Visitors' Information Guide* (1950), PAM.

32. *Troop Topic*, January 25, 1963 (a history of Sixth U.S. Army); "Fact Sheet — Presidio of San Francisco," PSF Lands, RG 338, NA — Pacific Sierra; *Star Presidian*, January 25, 1963.

33. Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 315; Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army, "Fact Sheet," January 11, 1973, PAM. The 15 states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico.

34. "Fact Sheet Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," July 1961; "Information Brochure," 1966; and "Officers Roster," June 1, 1970, all three at PAM; Unofficial Guide, Presidio of San Francisco (1975); Herbert A. Gale, "Reference History of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," 1973.

35. "Welcome, Presidio Army Community Service, Catalog of Facilities," n.d., PAM.

36. "Dedication of the West Coast Memorial to the Missing," 1960, PAM; *Star Presidian*, November 18, 1960.

37. *Star Presidian*, January 8, 1960; File: Fallout Shelters, Master Plans, PSF.

38. *Star Presidian*, May 1, 1964; *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 19, 1964.

39. *Star Presidian*, January 15, 1965; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1965, RG 338, NA—Pacific Sierra.

40. PSF, "Annual Historical Supplement," 1967, PAM. The new cafeteria later became a fast-food outlet, Burger King — a far cry from the traditional company mess halls.

41. Files: Catholic Chapel Addition and Officers Club Addition, Master Plans, PSF.

42. National Park Service, *Presidio, National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7-208 to 7-213; Map, Presidio of San Francisco," 1975. Officers' quarters 1274 is no longer extant.

43. File: Post Veterinary Facility, [663], Master Plans, PSF. The document did not state the usage of the stable building 662.

44. National Park Service, *Presidio, National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7-205 to 7-216.

45. Office of the Information Officer, Sixth U.S. Army, February 25, 1963, Lands PSF, RG 338, NA—Pacific Sierra; *Star Presidian*, April 10, 1964. The national historic landmark was based largely on the post's Hispanic-era heritage.

46. *Star Presidian*, October 23, 1964.

47. *Ibid.*, October 9, 1964; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1967, PAM.

48. *Star Presidian* 1964–1965.

49. PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1966—Notes, PAM.

50. *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 1, 1967.

51. Matloff, *American Military History*, pp. 614–638; *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 3, 1964 and May 15, 1965; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1967, PAM.

52. *San Francisco Examiner*, July 27, 1968.

53. *San Francisco Examiner*, February 27, 1969. The Army protected the guard's identity at the trial. Bunch, a deserter, had escaped from custody five times in 1968.

54. *Independent Journal*, November 27, 1968; *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 27, 1968; February 27 and 28 and March 1, 1969; *Oakland Tribune*, November 30, 1968 and April 16, 1969; *San Francisco Examiner*, November 27 and December 13, 1968, February 7 and 27 and April 30, 1969; *The Miami Herald*, April 27, 1969; *Salinas Californian*, April 24, 1969; *Washington Post*, April 16, 1969; Gerry Nicosia, "The Presidio 27," *Vietnam Generation, GI Resistance, Soldiers and Veterans Against the War* (1990), 2:65–78; File: Mutiny Trials, PSF, 1968–1970, PAM; Robert Sherrill, *Military Justice is to Justice as Military Music is to Music* (New York: Harper and Row, 1970).

55. *New York Times*, June 22, 1970.

56. R. V. Kane, June 30, 1975, Support Plan for Vietnam Orphans, PAM.

57. PSF, "Annual Historical Supplement," 1975, PAM; File: Base Realignment Study," Master Plans, PSF; Terry Link, "Battle of the Presidio," *San Francisco Magazine* (October 1970), pp. 24–27 and 56; *San Francisco Examiner*, March 8, August 8, and November 18, 1970.

58. *The State Journal-Register*, Springfield, Illinois, December 16, 1979.

59. *Star Presidian*, January 28, 1977; Frank McGrane, interview, June 1990. When closure of the Presidio as a military post neared, the Army moved objects and artifacts and library and archival material out of the museum. Some was shipped to various destinations and some was placed in a warehouse, during which process a considerable amount of valuable historical material was lost and, in a number of instances, stolen. When the Army transferred the museum to the National Park Service it proved to be a building filled mostly with empty exhibit cases. Regional Historian Gordon Chappell, NPS, memorandum for record, January 10, 1995.

60. Charles H. Bogart, *Controlled Mines, A History of Their Use by the United States* (Bennington, VT: Weapons and Welfare Press, 1986), p. 22; *Army and Navy Journal*, August 2 and 16, 1947.

61. "Appendix A," apparently in a letter February 24, 1948, Master Plans PSF; *Western Star, Official Publication, Sixth Army*, April 6–9, 1949, PAM. No date has been found for the closing of the school. It probably closed in the early 1950s when an Antiaircraft Command arrived in the Bay Area.

62. PSF, Post Diary, 1946–1953; *Star Presidian*, May 28, 1954; Hagwood, *San Francisco District*, p. 271. In 1955 Western Army Antiaircraft Command changed its name to 6th Regional Antiaircraft Command, and in 1957 to 6th Region U.S.Army Air Defense Command.

63. *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 22, 1954; *Star Presidian* May 19 and August 6, 1964; B. N. McMaster, et al., *Historical Overview of the Nike Missile System* (Gainsville, FL: Environmental Science and Engineering, 1984), p. 3-2.

64. *Star Presidian*, November 24, 1955 and October 11, 1957; McMaster, *Overview*, p. 2-1; *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 23, ca. 1957. A plaque near the entrance of the former Nike site states: "Battery Caulfield Dedicated in Honor of Lt. Col. Thomas Davis Caulfield, Artillery, 1911–1955, Donated by his Associates of Headquarters, Western Army Anti-Aircraft Command." Gordon Chappell, NPS, Field Notes, 1990.

65. *Star Presidian*, February 6, 1959; *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 30 and August 10. Just before the congressman's charges, the Bay Area Nike sites acquired sentry dogs, but none was assigned to Battery Caulfield because of the protection provided by the Presidio of San Francisco.

66. *Star Presidian*, May 21, 1960 and January 19, 1962; *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 5, 1974.

67. PSF, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957; *Star Presidian*, May 19, 1956.

68. PSF, *Daily Bulletin 153*, August 7, 1956. The Air Defense units continued to be subordinate to headquarters at Fort Baker.

69. *Star Presidian*, March 28, 1958, June 5, 1964, February 5 and June 11, 1965.

Chapter 22. From Post To Park, 1980–1994[1]

A decade after the Defense Department's 1979 announcement that the Presidio of San Francisco would continue to be a permanent military installation, the Secretary of Defense disclosed that the grand old post would be closed. In the interim, however, the Presidio and Sixth U.S. Army continued to accomplish their missions. Also during these years the Army constructed several modern and much-needed facilities, such as a child-care center [387].

The Sixth U.S. Army Headquarters' missions during the 1980s remained little changed: the operational readiness and mobilization of the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve units within 12 of the western states[2]; the supervision, coordination, and evaluation of training for war; planning for and conducting mobilization and deployment training; and coordinating the use of military resources in response to natural disasters. Also, as the senior army organization in the western states, the Sixth U.S. Army would become once again the Western Defense Command in the event of a crisis or an emergency situation.

In 1982 the Sixth U.S. Army carried out a training exercise named Gallant Eagle in Southern California. The $45 million test involved the Rapid Deployment Force meeting a Soviet threat to the Persian Gulf oil fields. This preparation became a reality in 1991 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The Sixth U.S. Army's headquarters immediately activated a total of 117 Army Reserve components having more than 13,000 soldiers. The Presidio sent one of its own units, Company C, 864th Engineers, to Saudi Arabia.[3]

The Loma Prieta earthquake, magnitude 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit Northern California in October 1989, again bringing the Sixth U.S. Army's resources into play. The shock waves killed 63 people and injured more than 3,700. Damage amounted to about $6 billion. The Presidio's neighbor, the Marina District, suffered devastating damage, to which the Presidio responded. The Presidio's fire engines were the first on the scene when the rubble of collapsed buildings in the district erupted into an inferno. Yet the Presidio itself escaped without serious harm. Its Headquarters Command Battalion received the Humanitarian Service Medal for its aid to the stricken city.[4]

The Presidio fire department, a fully professional organization, had 10 firefighters on call 24 hours a day. The two-company station received about 1,500 calls a year from the Presidio and

Post fire station, Presidio of San Francisco, built 1917. Photograph circa 1948. *PFC Richard J. Brock, Jr., U.S. Army.*

Forts Mason, Baker, Barry, and Cronkite (one-half a company at Fort Cronkite). Stand-by fire suppression and medical evacuation teams attended every flight from Crissy Field. The fire department also provided emergency medical treatment and transportation, receiving about 50 calls a month for Letterman ambulances. As before, the Presidio had an agreement with the City and County of San Francisco providing mutual assistance for fire protection.[5]

By 1990 the Presidio work force consisted of 2,000 military personnel and 3,550 civilians. A census of the residents showed 4,700 persons living on the post. In addition, the Presidio supported three major and several small Army Reserve units having a total of 670 positions.[6]

The deeds of individuals during these years received notice. The descendants of the Presidio Women's Club, the Officers' Spouses Club, organized "Hands Across the Presidio." This organization operated the thrift shop on the post and used the proceeds to aid impoverished enlisted families. Back in the 1960s, Sergeant First Class Charles S. Hawkins wrote a weekly

column "NCO Topics" in the *Star Presidian*. His popular articles discussed matters of importance to all ranks — auto safety, savings bonds, patriotism, sports, pay, saluting, and the matter of gossip and its ramifications. In 1965 Hawkins transferred to Okinawa. Before he departed, the Army awarded him the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Army Commendation Medal. After his retirement, Sergeant Hawkins became a member of the National Park Service in charge of the Fort Point National Historic Site, and strove untiringly to develop its historic resources and the interpretation of its significance. His legion of friends and supporters were saddened by the news of his death on October 1, 1989.

A hero of the Vietnam War, Maj. Gen. Patrick Henry Brady served as the deputy commander of the Sixth U.S. Army in 1991. In Vietnam Major Brady flew Huey medevac helicopters time after time through blazes of enemy fire to rescue and evacuate wounded soldiers with skill and daring. He became a legend across the Central Highlands where in two tours of duty he made 3,000 combat evacuation flights and rescued more than 5,000 wounded or trapped soldiers. The nation awarded him the Medal of Honor.

In 1989 word became public that unnamed citizens were having the Presidio's eucalyptus trees cut so as to improve their view of San Francisco Bay. Apparently the Presidio did not object until other citizens and organizations protested. At that point the garrison commander, Col. William Swift, ordered the cutting stopped. Swift was notified that it would cost the Presidio $20,000 to prepare an environmental assessment before cutting could begin again; cutting did not resume.

While not unique among military posts, the Presidio's pet cemetery drew attention over the years. Grave markers to Pepper, Wiggles, Jet, Fifi, Friend Lassie, Rusty, Little Tex, Little Bit, Tar Baby, Buddy Bird, and inscriptions such as "A GI Pet. He Did His Time" grabbed the heartstrings of passers-by. Ironically, the tiny plot of land maintained by the pets' mourning owners and a Boy Scout troop came under congressional scrutiny during a cost-cutting review.[7]

In addition to new construction, many changes were made in the usage of existing buildings during this period. At the beginning of 1980 four of the brick barracks on Montgomery Street housed soldiers: barracks 100 - Sixth U.S. Army Band, barracks 101 - male soldiers, barracks 104 - female soldiers, and barracks 105 - male soldiers and administrative functions. Because these barracks did not meet the minimum seismic standards for billets, the decision was made

Presidio guardhouse 210. Later, it became a post office and a bank. South and east elevations. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, August 1990.*

to move these troops to Fort Winfield Scott. This resulted in the band remaining in barracks 100 while the male soldiers moved into Scott's barracks 1204 and 1206 and the female soldiers into barracks 1205. The administrative functions were established in barracks 1214. The former officers' club at Scott [1331], became a recreation center for these troops.

By 1980 the brick barracks 103 had been converted to offices for the Post Comptroller and Finance and Accounting. By 1982 the Federal Emergency Management Agency occupied barracks 105. Barracks 102 was converted to general purpose administration circa 1983, and by 1986 it was used to support Army Reserve components. Also by 1986, barracks 104 housed finance administration. Some of these functions were temporary in nature. By 1993 the six brick barracks held the following functions:

Barracks 100. Sixth U.S. Army Band
Barracks 101. Enlisted men
Barracks 102. Finance and Accounting office
Barracks 103. Directorate of Contracting and Army Community Service
Barracks 104. Federal Emergency Management Agency
Barracks 105. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Bakery 228, built 1909. Later, it housed a dry cleaning plant. West and south elevations. NPS by Gordon Chappell, June 1989.

Officers' quarters 51, constructed in 1889 for a field grade officer, underwent a conversion in 1983 to become the Distinguished Visitors' Quarters, that is, for the principal officials of the United States government, including the President. The three suites in the building were furnished with period army furniture and were named for the first three commanders of the Sixth U.S. Army: General Walter Krueger Suite (the World War II leader in the Pacific), General Joseph Stilwell Suite, and Major General George P. Hays Suite.[8]

Until 1985 the Sixth U.S. Army operations center had been housed on the second floor of the headquarters building [38]. The floor space assigned to it proving inadequate, the decision was reached in 1985 to remodel the building's basement level for a new center. Construction involved building a classified library, administrative offices, postal facilities, computer room (Worldwide Military Command and Control System computer), emergency standby power, and the War Room, this last located directly under the Command Group facility on the first floor. The only effect on the historic appearance of the building was the blocking of 20 small basement windows.

The Presidio's communications system underwent a conversion to the electronic age in 1987. A fully electronic 10,000-line fiber optic switching system united the Presidio and the Public Health Service hospital. This system was such that it could easily be removed and installed elsewhere.[9]

In the early 1980s San Francisco's Jane Cryan realized that two "shacks" at 34th Avenue and Geary Street were survivors from a 1906 earthquake refugee camp. The structures were scheduled for demolition to allow for new building on the site. Community support to save the structures grew and in 1984 the Board of Permit Appeals gave the buildings a four-month stay. During that time the U.S. Army agreed to take them and in January 1985 they moved to the Presidio Army Museum, where they were restored and interpreted as an outdoor exhibit.[10]

In the 1980s the fast-food company Burger King proposed operating an establishment in a new shopping center in the Lower Presidio. When plans for the shopping center fell through, Burger King then proposed taking over the 1968 army cafeteria [211] at the main post. The Army agreed and Burger King began operating in February 1989. And in 1992 the South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, headquartered in San Francisco, announced that its alternate Emergency Operations Center was housed in Fort Winfield Scott's former quartermaster office [1220].[11]

During his administration, President Ronald Reagan appointed a Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (the Grace Commission) to determine ways to make recommendations to reduce the costs of running the federal government. One recommendation the commission made was a study to determine the potential efficiencies of closing military bases. In 1988 the secretary of defense appointed the Commission on Base Realignment and Closure. Its task was to recommend specific bases that could be realigned or closed. In its findings the commission recommended the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco because the reservation could not expand and the Letterman Army Medical Center highrise building needed major structural repairs. The Defense Department announced that all closures and realignments of the Presidio and other bases similarly affected, a total of 86, would be completed by September 30, 1995.[12]

The law that created the National Park System's Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1972 required the conversion of the Presidio to a national park status when it closed. When

U.S. Congress confirmed the Presidio's closure in late 1989, the U.S. Army announced that the Presidio would be transferred to the National Park Service and the planning process for the conversion began. The Army prepared a relocation schedule for the various units then at the Presidio that called for Sixth U.S. Army headquarters to transfer to Fort Carson, Colorado. It also began a study to determine the possibility of retaining some activities such as the commissary and medical care in the Bay Area for the support of the army community, including retirees. Also, the Army considered the possibility of continuing reserve activities at the Presidio after closure. The secretary of the army and the secretary of the interior signed a master agreement in September 1990 to facilitate property transfer.[13]

A third party entered the picture in 1992 when the Muwekma Ohlone tribe, based in San Jose, laid claim to the Presidio, saying it had the right of first refusal when the Army withdrew. The National Park Service welcomed the tribe's interest but expressed surprise that the Ohlones claimed the entire reservation.[14]

By 1993 the Departments of Defense and the Interior had reached agreement that the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters would continue to occupy facilities at the Presidio after the reservation had come into the National Park System. In October the National Park Service published its *Draft General Management Plan Amendment* and an *Environmental Impact Statement*. The plan stated that the Presidio would be "a dynamic setting for a network of institutions devoted to stimulating understanding of and action on the world's most critical social, cultural, and environmental challenges." Almost immediately San Francisco newspapers reported that the Sixth U.S. Army had expressed dissatisfaction with the plan saying that it did not "adequately address Army requirements resulting from [Base Relocation and Closure Act] decisions." Specifically the Army objected to the planned removal of the commissary and post exchange, and the plan had overlooked the Army's needs for recreational facilities and adequate housing. A National Park Service spokesperson was quoted as saying that negotiations would continue and that any problems would be resolved.[15]

Park planners returned to their tasks in an effort to resolve the issues. Meanwhile, U.S. Representative John Duncan (R-Tennessee) stated that the Presidio would cost taxpayers a prohibitive sum of money as a park and introduced a bill that called for the federal government to sell off nearly all the Presidio (1,300 acres) for private development. Opposition to the Duncan proposal mounted, and it was defeated. In July 1994 the National Park Service issued its *Final General Management Plan Amendment*. The revised document addressed the issues that

Officers' row, main post, north of the Alameda, Presidio of San Francisco. Left to right: quarters 10, 9, 8, 7, and 6. View to the northwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.*

the Army had raised the year before. The Interior and Defense departments also reached an agreement as to Sixth U.S. Army's requirements as a tenant at the Presidio. After October 1, 1994, the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters would remain under a five year lease with an option to renew. The Army would retain sufficient housing, office space, the main gymnasium, the swimming pool, athletic fields, the commissary, the officers' club, a chapel, and three tennis courts. The Army would also retain the golf course for at least five years. This last caused disappointment to the National Park Service, for it had counted upon its operation as a source of funding for the area. Once the Presidio became a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Sixth U.S. Army's strength would be 380 military personnel and 330 civilian employees.[16]

By 1994 the National Park Service had acquired a new tenant for the area. Former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev had established the International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies at Moscow, which was dedicated to seeking peace through international cooperation. On a visit to San Francisco in May 1992, Gorbachev expressed a desire to locate the United States operations of his organization at the Presidio. The Interior

Department made a building available at the former U.S. Coast Guard station for the "Gorbachev USA Foundation."[17]

A sign of the changing times appeared in July 1994 when the Army announced that the ancient and historic officers club, the adobe portion of which had been inherited from the Spanish/Mexican regimes and had been occupied by the U.S. Army since 1847, had become the Presidio community club, open to all ranks.[18]

The last week in September 1994 the National Park Service and the U.S. Army sponsored events commemorating the changing status of the Presidio. On Saturday, September 24, a reception was held in the old officers' club for Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. Afterwards the vice president spoke to the public at Pershing Square, with the Sixth U.S. Army Band and a color guard in attendance. From September 28 to October 1 a National Forum discussed "Partnerships Supporting Community Education for the Environment." September 30 was set aside for the final Garrison Retreat Ceremony. That evening the Golden Gate National Park Association hosted a fund raising event at the Presidio. At midnight, September 30, 1994, the Presidio of San Francisco ceased to exist as a military garrison under the flags of three nations. And at noon on October 1, a formal ceremony marked the transition of the Presidio of San Francisco from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service. The remainder of the day passed in celebration.[19]

In preparation for the final Retreat Ceremony scheduled for September 30, 1994, the Sixth U.S. Army prepared a brief history of the Headquarters Command Battalion that would be inactivated that day. The battalion had been established and activated on December 15, 1983. Its mission was the support of the Garrison and Sixth U.S. Army staffs. At first it had five subordinate units: Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison; Sixth U.S. Army Band; Law Enforcement Company; Company D, 864th Engineer Battalion; and 16th Postal Detachment. Later, Company D was redesignated Company C and, as such, spent two months in Honduras building roads and seven months in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm. The Postal Detachment was inactivated in 1988.

At 4 P.M., September 30, 1994, the U.S. Army conducted a military inactivation and retreat ceremony at Pershing Square marking the end of the Presidio of San Francisco's 218 years of continuous service as a military installation and 147 years as a U.S. Army post. The Public Affairs office prepared the program:

Above: A flag presentation marked the transfer of the Presidio of San Francisco from the Army to the National Park Service in the ceremony on October 1, 1994. At left is National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy; next, Bay District Ranger Jim Milestone. The color party, escorted by a guard of two U.S. Park Police carrying rifles, consisted of two Army sergeants in dress blue uniform, carying the U.S. flag and the Army flag, and two park rangers carrying the Department of the Interior flag and the Bear Flag of the State of California. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell.*

Below: Lt. General Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., Commanding General, Sixth U.S. Army, Major Lindsey A. Smith, Commander of Troops at this ceremony and Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Command Battalion at the Presidio, and Colonel Gregory A. Renn, last U.S. Army Commanding Officer of the Presidio of San Francisco, "troop the line," inspecting the assembled soldiers prior to the final "Retreat" ceremony. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell.*

Prelude music by Sixth U.S. Army Band
Reading of Presidio history
Welcome
Rendition of honors
Invocation
Inspection of troops
National Anthem
Inactivation of U.S. Garrison and Headquarters Command Battalion
Remarks
Retreat
Conclusion

Carl Nolte of the *San Francisco Chronicle* described the moving ceremony. Four units — the Law Enforcement Company; the Headquarters Company; the Headquarters Command Battalion; and finally the Presidio Garrison itself folded their flags and went into an inactive status. Lt. Gen. Glynn Clark Mallory, Jr., commanding the Sixth U.S. Army, spoke to the assembly saying, "It was said that an officer in the old Army had three ambitions, to make colonel, to be assigned to the Presidio, and to go to heaven." Nolte concluded, "Not long ago, there were 10,000 soldiers and civilian employees at the Presidio. Yesterday, not more than 100 troops participated in the Presidio's retirement as a military post." Three flags would continue to fly: the United States flag, the U.S. Army flag, and the Sixth U.S. Army flag.[20]

On December 8, 1994, the U.S. Army shocked the Bay Area community and the National Park Service by announcing that the Sixth U.S. Army would be inactivated, not five years hence, but by September 30, 1995. Its contribution to the upkeep of the Presidio ($12 million annually) would no longer be available to the National Park Service to pay part of the cost for maintaining the area, estimated at $25 million a year. At the same time, the U.S. Congress was searching for ways to reduce the mounting federal debt and it appeared unlikely that additional help would come from there. Then, on April 28, 1995, Vice President Al Gore announced that $64 million in discretionary U.S. Department of Defense funds would be available for environmental cleanup and repairs at the Presidio: $52 million for environmental cleanup, $8.6 million for general repairs, and $3.7 million to help the National Park Service pay for operation costs.

In May the Sixth U.S. Army announced that while it would officially be deactivated on September 30, an inactivation ceremony would be held on June 23. The Public Affairs Officer said that the Army's new Chief of Staff, Gen. Dennis Reimer, along with Sixth U.S. Army's

Above: Sixth U.S. Army Inactivation Ceremony, June 23, 1995. Sixth U.S. Army Band, before retiring its teal-colored guidon, entertains the audience playing "Bravura." (The guidon carried the red, white, and blue shield of the adjutant general.) *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 23, 1995.*

Below: The last evening gun fired by the U.S. Army at the Presidio signalled the lowering of the flag and the last "Retreat" call. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 23, 1995.*

Above: Sixth U.S. Army Inactivation Ceremony, June 23, 1995. The last "Retreat." Outlined against the trees in the distance, the Army's Presidio flag came down for the last time while the Sixth U.S. Army Band played "Retreat." *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 23, 1995.*

Below: The Sixth U.S. Army Band leads the procession out of the Presidio between the 1897 pylons of the Lombard Street gate, the final time army troops marched out of the Presidio of San Francisco. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 23, 1995.*

Main post, Presidio of San Francisco, ca. 1980s. *U.S. Army Military History Institute.*

commander, Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., would officiate. The Inactivation Program described the sequence of events:

Prelude Music
Reading of Sixth U.S. Army's History
Honors to the Reviewing Officer
Inspection of Troops
Retreat
National Anthem
Inactivation of Sixth U.S. Army Band
Inactivation of Sixth U.S. Army
Remarks
Conclusion of Review
Parade to the Lombard Gate
Conclusion of Ceremony

In his remarks General Mallory said, "Although we have lowered our flag for the last time, I assure you that the legacy of this base will never fade, never diminish....We will march out

the Lombard gate for the final time and into the annals of Army history." Outside the Lombard gate, General Mallory received the U.S. flag that had flown over the Presidio that day and reviewed the troops one last time. The band played "Auld Lang Syne" and the troops marched away. Thus was the symbolic departure of the Sixth U.S. Army from the Presidio of San Francisco.[21]

If only one could hear the echoes in the Presidio's hills from all those years: John Charles Fremont; New York Volunteers; fort at Fort Point; miners and Indians; adobe officers' club; Civil War; the combat arms; soldiers and families; an open post; American Centennial; Modoc War; Military Division of the Pacific; 15 decades of military architecture; coastal batteries; 3d Artillery, 9th Infantry, 9th Cavalry, 24th Infantry, 30th Infantry; Spanish-American War; Philippine Insurrection; Letterman General Hospital; China and Boxers; Presidio Women's Club; Presidents and VIPs; Earthquakes; Fort Winfield Scott; Marine Hospital; U.S. Life Saving Station; Panama-Pacific International Exposition; Crissy Field; Mexico; World War I; Siberia; Golden Gate Bridge; WPA and CCC; World War II; Italian Service Company and POWs; Language School; Sixth U.S. Army; Korean War; Vietnam; international treaties; Nike missiles; American Bicentennial; and Operation Desert Storm.

And the people: Erasmus Keyes, Emory Upton, William Graham, Leonard Wood, William Harts, Malin Craig, Walter Short, Dana Crissy, George Wright, Albert Sidney Johnston, Irvin McDowell, John Schofield, John Pope, O. O. Howard, William Shafter, Nelson Miles, S. B. M. Young, John J. Pershing, Arthur MacArthur, Adolphus Greely, Frederick Funston, Robert Eichelberger, John DeWitt, Joseph Stilwell, George Hays, Mark Clark, William Dean, and Albert Wedemeyer. If only one could hear the echoes in the hills.

Chapter 22 Notes:

1. This chapter title was not stolen from a National Park Service document bearing the same.

2. By 1980 the Sixth U.S. Army's area of responsibility had been reduced from 15 states to 12 states. New Mexico, Nebraska, and Kansas had been assigned to another jurisdiction.

3. U.S. Army *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, pp. 1-1 and 2-3; PSF, *"Presidio of San Francisco, Inactivation/Retreat Ceremony, September 30, 1994;" File: Gallant Eagle 1982*, Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association; *Star Presidian*, January 22, 1993.

4. Binder, "Earthquake Update," PAM; *The Denver Post*, October 23, 1994.

5. U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, pp. 3-33 and 3-34.

6. *Historic Preservation* (July–August 1991), p. 22; U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, p. 3-12; NPS, "Creating a Park," p. 16.

7. Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr., interview, May 22, 1990; *Star Presidian*, 1964 and May 21, 1965; *U.S. News & World Report*, February 25, 1991, p. 45; *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 14, 1989; *Denver Post*, August 29, 1993; *Historic Preservation* (July–August 1991), p. 24.

8. PSF, Handout, January 25, 1983. This handout referred to the building as the Funston House.

BOQ — bachelor officers' quarters

VOQ — visiting officers' quarters

DVQ — distinguished visitors' quarters

Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr., interview, May 22, 1990.

9. Files: Voucher Book, June–September 1983; Sixth Army Operations Center; and Military Construction Projects 1985, Master Plans, PSF; U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Statement*, p. 3-27.

10. "The Saving of Two 1906 Earthquake Refugee Shacks," PAM.

11. File: Military Construction Projects, Burger King, Master Plans, PSF; U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Impact Statement*.

12. U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, p. i-1. The closure date was later changed to September 30, 1994.

13. *Ibid*, p. 5-8; *Reveille, The News Letter of the National Park Service*.

14. Council on America's Military Past, *Headquarters Heliogram*, July 1992.

15. *San Francisco Examiner*, June 11, October 14 and 15, 1993; *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 15 and 20, 1993.

16. NPS, *Creating a Park for the 21st Century, from military post to national park, Final General Management Plan Amendment, Presidio of San Francisco*...(July 1994); *San Francisco Examiner*, October 15, 1993, August 10, 25, and 29, 1994; *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 15, 1993, August 10 and 25, 1994; *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, September 14, 1994, containing an article highly critical of the NPS.

17. NPS, *Presidio Update*, June 1992, *San Francisco Examiner*, October 15, 1993; *Time*, "Gorby," September 6, 1993.

18. Leaflet, "Presidio Community Club."

19. NPS, Program, "Creating a Park for the 21st Century."

20. Sixth U.S. Army Public Affairs, Program, September 29, 1994; U.S. Army, "Presidio of San Francisco, Inactivation/Retreat Ceremony, September 30, 1994;" *The Sacramento Bee*, October 1, 1994; *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 1, 1994.

21. *Star Presidian*, June 30, 1995 (final issue); Sharon E. Everett-Roles, project coordinator, "Born of War, Sixth United States Army, 1943–1945, Dedicated to Peace;" *San Francisco Examiner*, December 9, 1994; June 23 and 24, 1995; *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 9, 1994; April 17 and 28, May 2, and June 23 and 24, 1995; *Sacramento Bee*, April 28 and June 24, 1995; *Lahontan Valley News/Fallon Eagle Standard*, June 23, 1995. At the Presidio, the Community Club (former officers' club) and the Dental Clinic closed on June 30. The Aid Station closed on August 1, the Gymnasium/Swimming Pool on August 31, the Military Police Patrols ended on September 1, and the last chapel service was held on September 24. The Army Housing Office shut down on September 29, as did the post exchange and commissary. The Armed Forces continued to use some 300 housing units for an indefinite time. In a telecom with the writer, February 9, 1995, the Sixth U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer stressed that Sixth U.S. Army would be *disestablished*. All documents concerning the event used the term *inactivation*.

Chapter 23. The Legacy

When Maj. James A. Hardie took command of the Presidio of San Francisco in 1847, he could not have known that the post, then a small collection of crumbling adobe buildings sheltered by sand hills, was destined to play a significant role in the nation's military history. The military occupation of Northern California proceeded peacefully, but the almost simultaneous events of a peace treaty with Mexico and the discovery of gold in California in 1848 almost brought the Presidio to a premature close. Volunteer soldiers deserted in droves for the mine fields or were mustered out of the service and the regular troops who replaced them also caught gold fever. When the year 1848 ended, the garrison's strength stood at 13 enlisted men.

Slowly the Presidio's strength increased and in the 1850s the troops played an active role in Indian affairs not only in California but in the wars of the Pacific Northwest. Also in that decade army engineers began the construction of Fort Point, the only complete masonry American Third System fort in the coastal defenses of the west coast. Fort Point marked the beginning of the Presidio's key role in the defenses of strategic San Francisco Bay from the Civil War, through the war with Spain, and two world wars, to the missile era a century later.

The Civil War, 1861–1865, brought a burst of activity on the reservation. The garrison strength climbed to more than 1,700 officers and men. Officers' quarters, barracks, a hospital, a powder magazine, a chapel, and other buildings framed the parade ground. Many of these structures remain. While no enemy stormed the beaches, the Presidio, along with Alcatraz Island, maintained the peace in Northern California and stood prepared to defend California's gold for the Union treasuries.

In the postwar years army engineers constructed massive new batteries on the Presidio's headlands. The 1870s saw the post's artillery batteries marching off to engage in more Indian campaigns, including the Great Sioux War, the Nez Perce War, the Bannock War, and the disastrous (for both the Army and the Indians) Modoc War. At home, the U.S. Treasury Department had a Marine Hospital constructed on the Presidio in 1875 to care for sick and injured merchant seamen from all nations who landed in American ports. It performed its mission of mercy for over a century, finally closing its doors in 1981. The Presidio held a massive celebration in 1876 on the occasion of the nation's centennial birthday. More than 100,000 spectators gathered on its hills to watch military and naval drills and maneuvers.

The post's importance grew significantly in 1878 when the Military Division of the Pacific, Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell commanding, moved its headquarters from downtown San Francisco to the Presidio. For the next eight years it served as the nerve center for all operations on the west coast. Congress's refusal to appropriate funds for a suitable headquarters building eventually forced the division to return to the city.

In 1884 the Presidio's post cemetery became the San Francisco National Cemetery, containing the graves of the known and unknown of all ranks. For 100 years, 1890–1990, the Fort Point Life Saving Station in the lower Presidio carried out its mission of promoting boating safety, search and rescue, and aids to navigation. In the latter year the U.S. Coast Guard moved the operation to a new station across the bay at Fort Baker.

By 1890 the last of the Indian Wars were fought and the frontier declared closed. The U.S. Army closed down its many small, remote posts in the West and built up fewer but larger permanent installations, including the Presidio. Between 1890 and 1910, the garrison's strength increased fourfold. Beginning in the 1890s, the Presidio's cavalry troops assumed responsibility of protecting Yosemite and Sequoia national parks.

Beautification of the reservation began in the 1880s with the planting of a forest on the ridges and in the western part of the reservation. At the turn of the century, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was invited to have its experts assist in further beautification work on the reservation, already famous for its magnificent vistas of the coastal headlands and the Pacific Ocean.

Beginning in the 1890s, the Army undertook a vast program to modernize the coastal defenses of the nation's harbors. At San Francisco there emerged a new system of defense that included rifled guns and mortars and the facilities for planting submarine minefields. Engineers constructed these new works on both sides of the Golden Gate including the Presidio where no fewer than 18 batteries crowned the heights. Fort Winfield Scott in the western portion of the reservation became a separate coast artillery post in 1912. By the eve of World War II it housed the headquarters for all the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco.

In 1898 the United States went to war with Spain. The Presidio became an assembly area for thousands of volunteers and regulars who embarked for duty in the Philippine Islands. Later, it served for a time as the demobilization point for returning veterans and for the training of

recruit replacements for Hawaii and the Philippines. This increase in troop activity resulted in the Army establishing Letterman General Hospital, one of the more important army hospitals in the system. In World War II it became the debarkation hospital for the Pacific Ocean area. In 1945 no fewer than 72,000 wounded and sick patients passed through its doors.

Early in the twentieth century two men prepared plans for the further development of the Presidio: the much respected architect Daniel H. Burnham, and army engineer Maj. William W. Harts. While the plans of neither were fully implemented, both influenced future developments including Mission Revival architecture in place of standard army plans, landscaped drives such as the Park Presidio Boulevard, and a graceful layout of buildings along contour lines in place of the traditional straight lines encompassing a parade.

All such plans came to a temporary halt in 1906 when a large earthquake hit San Francisco. Little damaged, the Presidio swiftly became the headquarters for the relief of the stricken city. Soldiers patrolled the burning streets and guarded the city treasury. Refugee camps sprang up on the reservation. Letterman opened its doors to the injured.

In 1915 the Panama-Pacific International Exposition thrilled visitors to San Francisco's waterfront. A portion of the exposition stood on the Presidio's low land facing the bay. This area, long the site of swamps, ponds, and tidal water, became firm, dry land by dredging and filling. War in Europe brought the exposition to an early close and when the United States entered World War I in 1917, this area became a mobilization camp called North Cantonment. Even before then, in 1914, Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing had organized and trained the 8th Infantry Brigade at the Presidio for duty on the Mexican border and the subsequent Mexican Punitive Expedition.

The Army's headquarters for the Pacific Slope, now called the Ninth Corps Area and commanded by Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett, returned to the Presidio from San Francisco in 1920, this time with the intention to stay. It established its offices in an imposing, concrete, three-story barracks on the main parade. A year later the Army Air Service established Crissy Field in the lower Presidio, the first and only air defense station on the west coast. For the next 15 years Crissy Field assisted the Coast Artillery Corps in the training of its companies in target practice. It also assisted in the origins of the U.S. Air Mail Service, carried out aerial forest fire patrols, successfully handled aerial photographic assignments, promoted an interest in aviation on the west coast, and participated in community activities.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration contributed substantially to both the Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott, constructing new buildings such as the War Department theater and bringing the road systems up to standard. The Ninth Corps Area also assumed administrative and supply support for the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the western states. Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and its approach roads during this decade also impacted the military reservation, usually benefitting it with the construction of new facilities, such as the central reserve ammunition magazine at Fort Scott.

The Japanese attack on U.S. military installations in Hawaii resulted in the establishment of the Western Defense Command at the Presidio. During the months following the attack, the possibility of an enemy force landing on the west coast or Alaska seemed possible and the Presidio played a key role in organizing a defense. Although the fear of invasion lessened after the U.S. Navy's victory at the Battle of Midway in June 1942, the Western Defense Command remained on the alert for the duration of the war.

With the coming of peace, the Presidio became the headquarters of the Sixth U.S. Army. Among its early commanders were such outstanding wartime leaders as Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, Gen. Mark W. Clark, and Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer. The Sixth U.S. Army's responsibilities included providing defense for the western United States and the training of ROTC, National Guard, and Army Reserve units throughout the far west. By the end of the 1950s, the Presidio employed about 10,000 people, both military and civilian. In addition to Sixth Army headquarters, the Presidio itself became a part of the network of combat-ready army installations under the U.S. Army Forces Command.

Postwar construction brought significant improvement in housing for the post's military families. Recreational activities expanded with the construction of clubs, a gymnasium, golf course improvements, library, and bowling alleys. Letterman expanded into new facilities and became the Letterman Army Medical Center. Associated with the hospital but in separate facilities, the Letterman Army Institute of Research specialized in such work as researching in the fields of artificial blood, laser surgery, and resuscitation.

In 1989 the U.S. Congress approved a report that had recommended the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco, thus paving the way for the grand old post to become part of the National Park System. Spain had founded the Presidio in 1776. Mexico surrendered it in 1848. The U.S. Army had occupied it since 1847, through more than 140 years of national expan-

After inactivation of the Sixth U.S. Army, the Presidio's final incarnation as a military installation, from June 24 through September 30, 1995, was as a subinstallation of Fort Lewis, Washington. A sign to that effect quickly replaced the sign for "Headquarters Sixth Army." *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell.*

sion, large and small wars, and the evolution of military science from smoothbore guns to guided missiles. On October 1, 1994, a formal ceremony marked the transition of the Presidio of San Francisco from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service. The Sixth U.S. Army was inactivated on September 30, 1995. More than 80 years ago, Major Harts wrote that the Presidio possessed great natural beauty and that probably no other military post in all the world had a more magnificent location and commanding position. And so it was still described in 1995.

Special Studies

Julius Kahn Public Playground

Nearly 50 years after Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield wrote that the Presidio's neighbors were welcome to enjoy the natural beauties of the reservation, a portion of the post officially became a public playground for children. Two of San Francisco's citizens played important roles in this achievement, Rosalie M. Stern and Congressman Julius Kahn. Playground Commissioner Stern, long active in recreational planning, coordinated local efforts while Congressman Kahn worked with the War Department in Washington, D.C. On July 24, 1922, the Presidio's commander, Brig. Gen. Chase W. Kennedy, issued a revocable license to the City and County of San Francisco granting a 99-year lease on a tract of land, 500 feet by 525 feet, on the Presidio's south boundary between the city's Locust and Spruce streets.[1]

In the early twentieth century playgrounds for urban children were viewed as essential for their development and good health. This particular site in a hitherto unused part of the reservation was a welcome addition to the small Pacific Heights playground five blocks away. Years later a newspaper called it "the last playground in the Western Hemisphere where leisure and gentleness really count, where kids play rather than compete, and where the biggest problem is an occasional fight between pedigreed dogs."[2]

Boundary modifications over the years resulted in the north-south dimension being reduced to 400 feet because of the abrupt steepness of the land in the north, and an extension in the level land to the east, making that dimension 656 feet, giving the area 7.3 acres. Two unimproved roads in the playground lead into the Presidio, one on the north, the other on the east.

A recently constructed field house, replacing an older one and located approximately in the middle of the area, houses the administrative facilities and two restrooms. Sanded children's play areas are located nearby. To the west, activities include two double tennis courts and an outdoor basketball court. The level land in the eastern extension contains a large playing field for football, soccer, and baseball (Little League). A portion of the playground has a grove of Monterey cypress and acacia trees. Early plans showed a putting green and a bridle path but neither is extant. The playground also provided camping space for scouts. In the 1950s the Army developed its athletic fields adjacent to the playground, to the north.

The old field house, Julius Kahn Public Playground, Presidio of San Francisco. South and east elevations. *Lauren Weiss Bricker, The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, 1990.*

For nearly 70 years the Julius Kahn Playground has well served generations of children in the Pacific Heights and other neighborhoods.[3]

Notes:

1. This description of the playground owes a great debt to Lauren Weiss Bricker's National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the playground (1990). Mrs. Stern was also responsible for the establishment of the Sigmund Stern Recreation Grove in San Francisco. The playground was named in honor of Congressman Kahn in 1926.

2. *San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle*, March 4, 1973.

3. The National Park Service did not discuss the playground in its *Creating a Park* (1994). Also see U.S. Army, *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, p. 3-74.

U.S. Marine (Public Health Service) Hospital

For more than 100 years the U.S. Marine Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco tended to the needs of merchant seamen, free of charge, from all corners of the world. In addition, refugees from Vietnam, Native Americans, members of the U.S. Coast Guard and other federal agencies, Hansen's disease (leprosy) patients from Hawaii, and others also found succor there. The hospital established the Plague Investigation Laboratory to study such terrors as Hansen's disease and plague diseases. It began on this site in a small complex of wood-frame buildings. When it ceased operations, the doors closed to the largest building on the Presidio reservation. The U.S. Marine Hospital had a significant if little-known history.

By 1850 San Francisco had become a busy port as ships from around the world arrived to discharge their gold-crazed passengers and, often as not, their crews. To attend to the needs of sick and disabled seamen who had been cast ashore and who crowded the waterfront, the California legislature passed a joint resolution asking the federal government to establish a marine hospital at San Francisco. The United States had established the Marine Hospital Service under the Treasury Department in 1798 for the world's seamen in the merchant marine, free of charge, ashore in American ports and in need of hospitalization. At that time seamen were plagued with cholera, yellow fever, and generally unsanitary living conditions. Reacting to California's request, the U.S. Congress passed an act on September 30, 1850, appropriating $50,000 for such a hospital.[1]

In November 1851 Charles Homer entered into a contract with the federal government to construct the hospital. Because of difficulties in acquiring a suitable site, work on the building did not get underway until December 1852. Meanwhile, William L. Hodge, the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, asked Congress for an additional appropriation of $130,000 for San Francisco. Located at Harrison and Spear streets on Rincon Point, the hospital finally reached completion in December 1853, thus making it one of the oldest hospitals in the city.[2]

An earthquake that struck San Francisco in 1868 damaged the marine hospital to the extent that it was abandoned. The Treasury Department arranged for the seamen to be cared for by contract at St. Mary's College, a brick three-story building. In fiscal year 1871, St. Mary's treated 1,017 seamen at a cost to the government of $54,421, and the next year, 962 seamen at a cost of $30,070. The supervising surgeon of the Hospital Service wrote that the college building,

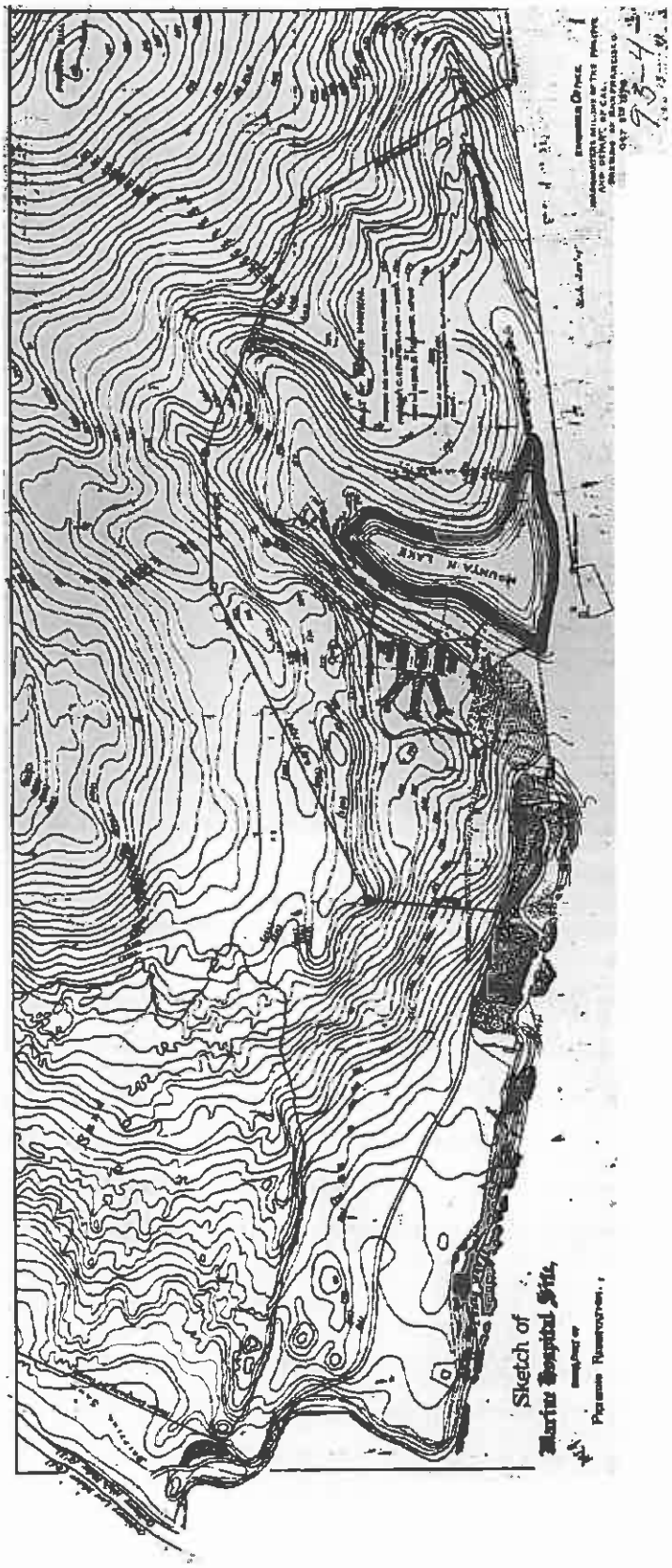
located in a "bleak and windy valley," was not suited as a hospital. He recommended that a proper hospital be built on Angel Island, which was already federal property.

When the Army's board of engineers for fortifications reported that the Angel Island site was needed by the Army for the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay, the Secretary of the Treasury then asked for a tract near the Presidio's Mountain Lake for hospital purposes. Following an internal debate the Army agreed, providing that Mountain Lake, Lobos Creek, and the local roads be reserved to the Presidio and that the Army retained the right to destroy the hospital buildings in case of war. The agreement was signed on January 28, 1874.[3]

Completed in 1875, the marine hospital stood on "Western Terrace" overlooking Mountain Lake. Three wood-frame ward buildings radiated from a central core, and smaller support buildings and living quarters stood on either side of the wards. Only a boiler house was constructed with concrete walls. The cost of construction amounted to $59,000. The hospital reservation contained 85 acres and it surrounded the lake on the east, west, and north. The hospital set aside 8 1/2 acres for a vegetable garden in order to provide fresh produce for patients and staff. By 1892, however, the garden had grown to 40 acres and the Presidio's Colonel Graham became alarmed. He wrote to the hospital surgeon pointing out that the garden bordered on Mountain Lake and that the hospital placed large amounts of manure on it, the natural drainage being toward the lake. He reminded the hospital that the military posts were dependent on good water from Mountain Lake and Lobos Creek, that the War Department had reserved both, and that it was essential for the Army to control them effectively. He concluded by saying "the Military authorities" desired that cultivation of the gardens be discontinued as soon as possible.[4]

Since its inception, the Marine Hospital Service had accepted the merchant seamen of all nations. In 1894 it extended hospital benefits to the keepers and crews of life saving stations, including the U.S. Life Saving Station in the Lower Presidio. In 1902 the Treasury's U.S. Marine Hospital Service was renamed the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service but at San Francisco, Marine Hospital remained in common use for years to come.[5]

When Maj. William Harts prepared his 1907 report on the expansion of the Presidio he noted that in the past there had been much friction between the hospital and the Presidio. He concluded that the Marine Hospital should move, perhaps to Angel Island (again) where the U.S. Marine Hospital Service had established a quarantine station in 1891. The Presidio's com-



Map dated October 8, 1876, showing the Marine Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco. *National Archives, Record Group 92.*

Aerial view of the old U.S. Marine hospital built on the Presidio reservation in 1875. In 1902 the complex became the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital. Looking westward about 1925. Mountain Lake is in the foreground. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

mander in 1909, Col. John A. Lundeen, raised the issue of the marine hospital's cemetery that lay a short distance north of the buildings. Like the garden drainage problem of the 1890s, Lundeen considered the cemetery a menace to the quality of Mountain Lake water. It appeared, however, that no action was taken to modify the situation. The marine hospital's chief surgeon had his own complaint. The Army's Quartermaster Department had teams hauling heavy loads through the hospital reserve that were permanently damaging the roadway.[6]

Also in 1909 the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce requested Congress to replace the marine hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco with a new facility costing $500,000. An alarmed War Department quickly informed Congress that the Presidio's garrison was about to be increased and recommended that the marine hospital be moved to Benicia Barracks, that

post no longer being suited to the Army's activities. A stalemate of sorts resulted; a new hospital was not built, nor did the old one move.[7]

In 1918 the Public Health Service undertook to increase the facilities at the marine hospital, which it described as consisting of three ward buildings, a kitchen and two mess halls, officers' quarters, attendants' quarters, and outbuildings. The work involved remodeling buildings, improving the mechanical equipment such as the refrigeration plant, telephone, and bedside call systems. The cost of the work amounted to $240,000, with another $10,000 going for furniture and equipment.[8]

Although no structures remain from the 1875 marine hospital, four buildings erected between 1915 and 1920 have survived: two buildings that served as quarters and garages for senior attendants [1806 and 1807], and two officers' quarters [1809 and 1810]. Buildings 1806 and 1807 were constructed circa 1920. Building 1806 had two stories, the ground level serving as vehicle garages and the second floor individual quarters. Building 1807 was similarly arranged except that it had three floors, the upper two serving as apartments.

Officer's quarters 1810 built in 1915, was the oldest surviving building in the hospital complex in 1994. The two-story, wood-frame, stucco-covered residence faced north away from Mountain Lake, in contrast to the other officers' quarters that looked upon the lake. That view was interrupted with the construction of Park Presidio Boulevard in the 1930s. Officer's quarters 1809 was built in 1920. It had two stories and was the most northerly residence on officers' row.[9]

In 1927 the hospital's reservation was reduced greatly to 35 acres, which were transferred to the Treasury Department but with a reverter clause that called for the title to revert to the War Department whenever the tract ceased to be used for marine hospital uses.[10]

In 1932 the wooden hospital buildings, almost 60 years old, overcrowded, and potential fire hazards, were demolished, and a new, reinforced concrete, six-story hospital building, building 1801, was constructed on a terrace overlooking the city. It had a rectangular front block and three large rear wings. The outer wings also had six stories and the much longer middle wing had three stories. Red tile covered the roof while the walls were clad in buff-colored brick. This building was the largest structure on the military reservation. In 1952 two seven-

The new U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, 1801, completed in 1932. The two front wings, the flagstaff, and the main gate were constructed in 1952. View toward the north. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, March 1992.*

story wings with a one-story connector were added to the front of the building, thus partially obstructing the original front facade.[11]

A number of other buildings, all built in 1932, comprised the new hospital complex:

> Recreation center [1805]. One and a half story. Wood-frame. Walls buff-colored brick veneer. Roof, red tile. Colonial Revival architecture.
>
> Nurses' quarters [1808]. Three stories. A wooden lantern having a copper roof stood on the roof of the building disguising a central air vent. Buff-colored brick walls. Colonial Revival.
>
> Officer's quarters [1811]. Two stories. Stucco-clad walls on a wood frame.
>
> Four duplex officers' quarters [1812-1815]. Each two stories with a one-story front porch. Stucco-clad walls on a wood frame.

Laboratories [1818 and 1819]. Small one-story buildings with flat roofs. Buff-colored brick walls.

Meter house [1828]. Small, block-like, and windowless. Stucco-clad walls.[12]

The Works Progress Administration graded and constructed double tennis courts north of the main hospital building and planted shrubbery around the courts in the 1930s. Several other structures were added to the complex in succeeding years such as the flagstaff [1800] erected in 1952, a recreation bunker [1803] in the 1950s; and an emergency helipad [1831] (no longer in use) in the 1960s.

On July 1, 1939, all marine hospitals were placed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Security Agency, headed by the Surgeon General of the United States. The marine hospital now treated merchant seamen, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Geodetic Survey, victims of Hansen's disease, and Native Americans.[13]

In 1963 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), the successor to the Federal Security Agency, asked the Army to transfer 1.99 acres from the Presidio to the hospital. The Army donated this land in 1964 and it served as a buffer between the hospital's Plague Investigation Laboratory [1818 and 1819] and Presidio buildings.[14]

HEW proposed to reduce the activities of the Public Health Service in 1970 and it set the date of July 1973 for closing the San Francisco hospital. Although the hospital had a declining occupancy, in 1970 it had an average monthly inpatient load of 425 and the annual outpatient visits totaled 122,700. The hospital employed nearly 1,000 people, of whom 100 were physicians. If the facility continued to operate, $13 million would be required to bring it up to code. Upon learning of the proposed closure, the AFL-CIO Seafarer's International Union protested vigorously, and the hospital remained open for the time being.[15]

In 1974 the Army learned that HEW planned to remove 7.5 acres from the hospital's reservation. Reacting quickly, the Presidio informed higher headquarters that the land was part of the "Green Belt" open space and buffer zone within the reservation. Traditionally it had always been an integral part of the Presidio and it was part of the land that the Presidio and the City and County of San Francisco had agreed would not be developed. The storm blew over; the land remained green.[16]

However, time ran out for the hospital. In 1981 the federal government announced its closure. Congressman Philip Burton immediately protested. The *San Francisco Examiner* published an article entitled, "Burtons fight Reagan on hospital" in April pointing out that the majority of patients were still seamen. Others included the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration, some Department of Defense members and retirees, Native Americans, Indochina refugees, and some 400 patients with Hansen's disease from the western states and Hawaii. The hospital maintained 242 beds, down from 300. But the federal government's Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 terminated medical benefits for merchant seamen and called for the closure of all Public Health Service hospitals and clinics. The hospital closed its doors on November 1, 1981, and on November 13, the Treasury Department transferred the hospital's 35 acres and the facilities to the Department of the Army. Three years later it also gave back the 1.99 acres, thus allowing the Army to construct a short road joining the Presidio's road network with the hospital's.[17]

Congress directed the Department of the Army to offer a 10-year lease of the hospital to the City and County of San Francisco for the treatment of AIDS patients; but the city did not implement this provision. Meanwhile, the Army contemplated what uses it might make of the complex. The Presidio said it could use the 12 units of the officers' quarters and suggested that the Sixth U.S. Army might be interested in establishing its headquarters in the main hospital building. The commander of Letterman Army Medical Center wanted to retain the hospital for storing its War Reserve stock then at Fort Baker. Also, the 6253d U.S. Army Hospital (Reserve) could relocate there from Hamilton Air Force Base.

In the end, the Defense Language Institute made use of some of the structures while its facilities at the Presidio of Monterey were being modernized. Both Letterman and the Presidio's Directorate of Engineering and Housing stored mobilization stocks at the hospital. A Chinese-American International School subsequently occupied part of a wing.[18]

The marine hospital had maintained a cemetery north of the hospital complex since the 1870s. While no interments had been made in recent years, the cemetery reportedly held the remains of from 200 to 500 merchant seamen. Partially covered by a paved parking area and the tennis courts, the cemetery was cleared of grave markers and remains. In recent times, however, a landfill in the area disclosed the partial skeletal remains of two individuals.[19]

In 1972 Congress established Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the Bay Area. While the law included the Presidio of San Francisco within the boundaries and stated that the reservation was to be transferred to the national recreation area when the Army determined it to be excess to its needs, the marine hospital complex was not included within the designated boundary. In 1989, as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act, the Army announced that the post would be closed, and began plans to vacate. It maintained, however, that under the act the hospital complex was excluded from the Presidio reservation and the Army was free to sell the property to help defray the expenses of moving. The National Park Service believed the hospital to be an important part of the national recreation area and conceived of it becoming a residential education and conference center.[20]

Notes:

1. *The Army at the Golden Gate*, p. 76; U.S. Congress, House, Miscellaneous Document 53 (31-1), Serial 582; House, Executive Document 133 (32-1), Serial 649. A few months later the federal government authorized a marine hospital near the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon Territory. U.S. Congress, Senate, Miscellaneous Document 30 (31-2), Serial 592. In 1895 a marine hospital was established at Post Townsend at the entrance to Puget Sound in Washington State.

2. Lotchin, *San Francisco*, p. 185; B. E. Lloyd, *Lights and Shades in San Francisco* (San Francisco: A. L. Bancroft, 1876), pp. 431–432; U.S. Congress, House, Executive Document 54 (33-1), Serial 721, and Executive Document 133 (32-1), Serial 649.

3. J. M. Woodworth, November 1, 1872, in U.S. Congress, Senate, Executive Document 13 (42d-3), Serial 1545; Chief of Engineers, January 6, 1874, to secretary of war, PSF, Bulky File, RG 77, NA; U.S. Army, *Outline Description of Military Posts, 1904*, p. 378; *Alta California*, February 21, 1874.

4. NPS, National Register Forms, PSF, p. 7-42; "Draft, Cultural Resources Inventory Update," 1988, Master Plans, PSF; Graham, August 12, 1892, to U.S. Marine Hospital, PSF, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

5. U.S. Congress, House, Report 351 (53-2), Serial 3269. In 1912 the agency became the Public Health Service.

6. Harts, *Report*, p. 86; J.A. Lundeen, November 5, 1909, to Department of California, and Surgeon in Command, October 2, 1909, PSF, Bulky File, RG 393, NA.

7. R. S. Oliver, March 30, 1909, to J. R. Knowland, Register of Letters Received, PSF, RG 393, NA; U.S. Congress, House, Document 1323 (61-3), Serial 5951, p. 196.

8. U.S. Congress, House, Document 815 (65-2), Serial 7447.

9. NPS, *Presidio National Register Forms*, pp. 7-52 and 7-152–153. The original portion of the engineering-maintenance shop, 1802, may also be an early structure, probably being built in 1928. *Ibid.*, p. 7-193.

10. U.S. Army, Sacramento Division Engineer, "Cultural Resources Inventory Update," p. 98.

11. NPS, *Presidio National Register Forms*, p. 7-154; U.S. Division Engineer, "Cultural Resources," p. 98.

12. NPS, *Presidio National Register Forms*, pp. 7-59, 7-154–158.

13. Mooser, *Report on Progress*, item 2171, p. 83; U.S. Division Engineer, "Cultural Resources," p. 98.

14. U.S. Division Engineer, "Cultural Resources," p. 98.

15. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 17, 1970.

16. Commanding officer, PSF, October 4, 1974, to commanding officer, U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia.

17. *San Francisco Examiner*, April 27, 1981; Secretary of the Treasury R. S. Schweiker, November 13, 1981, to Secretary of the Army J. O. Marsh. The road and its extension were named Battery Caufield Road after the nearby Nike missile battery of that name.

18. F. W. Hall, November 13, 1981, to U.S. Army Forces Command; U.S. Division Engineer, "Cultural Resources," p. 98.

19. U.S. Army, *Base Closure Final Environmental Impact Statement*, item 5-9. Subsequent archeological testing confirmed the existence of intact graves below the landfill and parking lot.

20. NPS, *Creating a Park*, pp. 2 and 80.

U.S. Coast Guard Station Fort Point

The Golden Gate, magnificent in appearance on a sunny day with calm seas, can suddenly become treacherous to shipping. Fog, eddies, wind, storms, and strong currents have caused many disasters through the ages. Early in 1853 the wooden, side-wheel steamship *Tennessee* departed San Francisco bound for Panama. Because of a heavy fog, the captain "was unaware of the outgoing tide's strong current that swept *Tennessee* north past the gate and along the Marin shore." Suddenly, the crew spotted breakers and the captain ordered the engines reversed. But rocks blocked the vessel and the ship began to swing broadside toward the shore. The captain managed to beach the ship on a sandy cove, thus avoiding loss of life. Passengers were put safely on shore and the ship gave its name to the cove.[1]

A month later Capt. William T. Sherman of the 3d U.S. Infantry, on leave from the U.S. Army and returning to San Francisco aboard SS *Lewis*, experienced two shipwrecks in one day. On foggy April 9, in calm seas, the ship overran the Golden Gate and hit bottom on Duckworth Reef, Bolinas Bay, about 18 miles above the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Passengers and crew got safely ashore. Sherman discovered a schooner loaded with lumber and he persuaded its captain to take him to San Francisco. As they approached Fort Point, "the force of the wind, meeting a strong ebb-tide, drove the nose of the schooner under water; she dove like a duck, went over on her side, and began to drift out with the tide." The vessel refused to sink because of the cargo of lumber, and Sherman, who had been thrown overboard, clambered back up the side. Soon, a small boat approached and took Sherman aboard, depositing him at the foot of Fort Point. The very wet captain walked to the Presidio thinking that two shipwrecks in one day was not a good beginning to his future career in the banking business.[2]

San Francisco also wrecked at the Golden Gate in 1853. As the clipper passed Point Bonita on the north side of the Golden Gate, she was caught in an eddy. Swirling about, the vessel hit rocks near the point on December 8. The badly damaged clipper anchored in Bonita Cove. Passengers got on shore safely but the vessel filled with water. Plunderers, including soldiers from the Presidio, boarded the clipper. A storm hit the following day, drowning looters and leaving *San Francisco* a complete wreck.[3]

When the countless ships brought their gold-hungry passengers to San Francisco Bay in the 1850s, the United States undertook the construction of lighthouses on the Pacific coast. Not

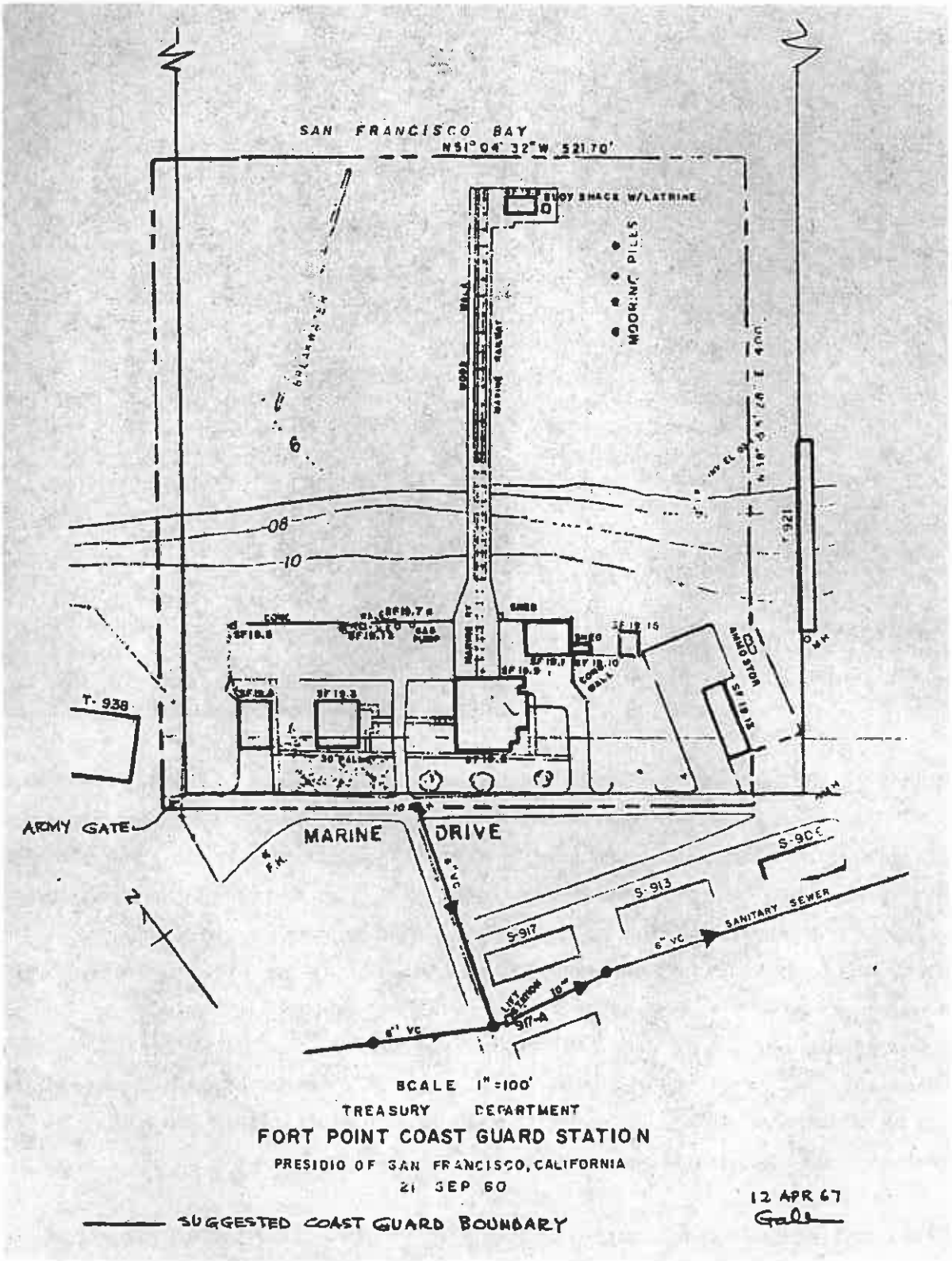
Above: Fort Point Life Boat Station at its original location, ca. 1895. Residence and boat house. Fort Point buildings are in the distance. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: The residence at the Life Boat Station was comparatively new when photographed about 1895-1900. When relocated 700 feet farther west the residence was turned at a right angle to position shown here. Note the drill pole at right. (From a cyanotype) *U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office, Washington, D.C.*

Boat house and drill pole, Fort Point Life Boat Station, circa 1895. (From a cyanotype) *U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office, Washington, D.C.*

until the 1870s, however, were life saving stations established on the coast. Long before then, one of the earliest organizations in the United States to extend aid to shipwrecked people was the Massachusetts Humane Society, which erected small unmanned huts along Massachusetts Bay in 1785. These huts contained supplies of firewood, food, and clothing. Soon the society acquired lifeboats and by 1846 it had established 18 lifeboat stations along the Massachusetts coast, each having a keeper and a volunteer crew. A year later the U.S. Congress established a system of lighthouses and revenue cutters. By 1854 volunteers had organized 137 lifeboat stations along the eastern coasts of the United States and the Great Lakes. The U.S. Treasury Department organized the Revenue-Marine Bureau in 1871, placing lifeboat stations under it and hiring full-time professional crews. Then, in 1878, the U.S. Congress created the U.S. Life Saving Service as a separate bureau under the Treasury Department.[4]

Even before the establishment of the Life Saving Service, the secretary of the treasury had constructed a station at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park in 1877. The new Service's Twelfth District, i.e., the west coast, prepared plans for two additional stations, near the Presidio's



Map, Fort Point Coast Guard Station, September 1960 (updated April 1967). *12th Coast Guard District. Alameda, CA.*

Fort Point and at Point Reyes north of the Golden Gate. These stations were eventually supplemented by life saving stations at Point Bonita in the Marin headlands and at the southern end of Ocean Beach in San Francisco. In January 1888, the Secretary of War W. C. Endicott granted a revocable license to the Secretary of Treasury Charles S. Fairchild for the erection of a station on the lower Presidio. On November 2, J. W. Meryman, the Life Saving Service's Pacific coast superintendent of construction, announced that he had received the plans and specifications for a dwelling house for keeper and crew for each of the two stations.[5]

James H. Coster of Baltimore, Maryland, won the construction contract for the Presidio station in February 1889 with a bid of $11,000 and he promised to complete the work by September 1, 1889. An inspector visited the site on October 8 and found the buildings essentially completed but work had not started on the launchway. Finally, on February 14, 1890, the superintendent of construction announced completion of the station. A separate contract, won by L. D. Frichette of San Francisco, called for a fence on three sides of the station — 915 feet of picket fence and 140 feet of barbed wire. In July 1890 the Life Saving Service asked the Army's permission to erect a lookout tower on Fort Point. Col. William Graham, the Presidio commander, informed the 12th District that it could erect a 10-foot tower and install telephone communication with it. A few years later an army officer noted that the 20-foot, wood-frame tower stood 123 yards in front of gun 3, Battery Lancaster.[6]

The station crew was soon put to the test. *Elizabeth*, an 866-ton wooden ship on her seventh visit to San Francisco, arrived off the Golden Gate on February 21, 1891. The captain refused a tow through the Gate from a tug despite the bad weather. A strong eddy drove the vessel back toward Point Bonita where she went on the rocks. Water began to fill the ship but the captain's wife and family were taken off safely. The ship then drifted north, striking again at Tennessee Cove, then going ashore 7 miles north of Point Bonita at the Big Slide Ranch:

> Crews from the United States Life-Saving Stations at Golden Gate and Fort Point responded to the wreck, but their heroic efforts were doomed to failure. The Fort Point surfboat, in the tow of a tug, was swamped. Keeper Charles Henry washed overboard and drowned. Keeper Hollohan of the Golden Gate Park Station then took some of the Fort Point crew, crossed the bay to Sausalito by ferry and unable to secure horses...directed his men to harness themselves to the drag ropes of the cart, which, with its load weighed nearly a ton and a half, and started for the scene of disaster. The road led them over high hills and through deep ravines...but the faithful surfmen tugged on....Horses were finally secured at Tennessee Ranch, and the party quickly reached the ocean shore at Tennessee Cove. Upon arrival, the exhausted life-savers found that

> *Elizabeth* had pulled free and drifted farther north. Continuing their trek along the rugged Northern Marin coast, they finally arrived at the wreck, too late to help. The life-savers had responded to the disaster in the best tradition of their service, only to be thwarted by the weather.

Elizabeth had disintegrated, taking the lives of the captain and 18 of the 26-man crew.[7]

Two years later, *City of New York*, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's modern iron-hulled steamer, headed out through the Golden Gate on October 26, 1893. A heavy fog hid the tower light at Point Bonita and, suddenly, the vessel struck rocks at the point. The Fort Point Life Saving Station heard the signal cannon and immediately dispatched assistance. Because of the rocks, tugs could not approach the stranded ship, and the Fort Point Station's surfmen took all passengers off and transferred them to rescue craft. Assisted by the Golden Gate Park Station's crew, they also removed the steamer's cargo. Five months later, the hulk broke free from the rocks and sank in deep water.[8]

When Maj. William Harts prepared his master plan for the expansion of the Presidio in 1907, he recommended the removal of the life saving station from the lower Presidio to Baker Beach on the Pacific. He said that it was needed more on the ocean shore than on the bay shore because more wrecks occurred there. Moreover, when his plan to increase the size of the lower Presidio by dredging and filling was realized, the life saving station would find itself far inland. Time would show that Major Harts was but the first of many who wished the station moved.[9]

In 1914 the Life Saving Service merged with the Revenue-Cutter Service and the new organization became the U.S. Coast Guard, still under the Treasury Department. The station at the Presidio became the Fort Point Coast Guard Station and it was numbered 323. From a document called Assistance Reports one obtains a picture of the variety of tasks that came the station's way:

> October 20, 1917. Picked up and towed a becalmed vessel that was drifting to sea.
>
> September 1, 1919. *Virginia*, a hydroplane, fell into the water from a height of 100 feet. Towed plane ashore. Hull and wings a total loss.
>
> February 22, 1921. A man jumped into bay from a moving airplane. Took him aboard and landed him on shore.

Presidio Wharf, built 1921, the second replacement of the original pier. It was demolished in 1953. *Quartermaster Building Record Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

March 2, 1922. Boy fell over a high cliff. When found by the station crew he was bleeding profusely and incoming tide was washing over him.

March 17, 1922. Carried sick lighthouse keeper from the Farallone Islands to station and placed him in the care of Marine Hospital attendants.

September 1923. Stood by while the Seal Rocks swimming races were held.

April 19, 1924. Patrolled entrance of San Francisco Bay to prevent smuggling of liquor.

March 19, 1925. Recovered body of a male bather and attempted resuscitation.

April 7, 1925. Disposed of a dead horse that was on the rocks near Cliff House.

September 17, 1925. Two male bathers caught in undertow and drowned.

March 20, 1927. Rescued man who attempted to cross the Golden Gate in an air-inflated suit and was swept out to sea.

December 6, 1929. Stood by while a glider, in tow of plane, crossed Golden Gate. Glider crashed on Crissy Field, killing occupant.

September 28, 1933. Dragged for body of man whose clothing was found with a note to his wife.[10]

In 1914 work began on the construction of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition grounds on the San Francisco waterfront including the lower Presidio. The Fort Point Station became an obstacle to the exposition company's plans for it wished to construct a planked auto racetrack that would involve the same site. With everyone's agreement, the company bore the cost of moving the station 700 feet west to its present location. Also, it cost the company $19,000 to install a new steel boat launchway at the new site.[11]

An army officer, writing in 1919, brought notice to the large men's quarters at the station. He said it measured about 55 feet square and contained two stories, adding there were also quarters for the "keeper" and several other small buildings.[12] By 1920, with the development of Crissy Field adjacent to the station, the U.S. Army Air Service began a campaign to have the station moved once again. Aircraft taking off from the field had to take off from east to west because of the prevailing wind, and had to gain sufficient altitude to get over the Fort Point bluff, 160 feet high, or make a right turn over the station buildings. In many instances the aircraft barely cleared the buildings. Estimated cost of moving the station east to the vicinity of the Presidio wharf came to $73,000. Once again the Coast Guard was willing to move but it did not have the funds. Nor was Congress willing to supply the funding. The station stayed and aircraft continued to make their sometimes breath-catching turns.[13]
In 1940 the Army discovered that it had not issued a permit to the Coast Guard station when it moved in 1914. Hasty paper work, which included the station's metes and bounds, made everything legal on August 17, 1940.[14]

In 1952 the station felt the necessity to expand its facilities. Demands on its services had greatly increased with the closing of the Golden Gate and Point Bonita stations, leaving it the only one operating in the Bay Area. It considered that an area 150 feet wide and extending from Marina Drive to the bay would be sufficient space for new storage and shop facilities. The Army granted the request and a 1957 site plan showed a storage building to the east of the station building. A description of the station prepared in 1952 listed the buildings and structures: from west to east — 19.4 commander's garage, 19.3 commander's residence, 19.9 station building with boat room, 19.1 storage building, 19.15 shop building, and an unnumbered ammunition storage. The marine railroad ran from three boat tracks within the station building and converged into a single track down into the water. A buoy shack with a latrine, 19.8, stood on the end of the pier. The description noted that the three-story station building had a fourth-story lookout. Inside the building the men maintained a small museum that contained nameplates, oars, and life rings from local wrecks.[15]

The Presidio's *Star Presidian* printed an article about the station on September 30, 1963, noting that the crew maintained two 40-foot speedboats and two 30-foot motor lifeboats. With the boats they supplied logistical support for the Mile Rock Light Station, Point Blunt Light Station on Angel Island, and the Alcatraz Light Station. An additional, nasty task was recovering suicides who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge.

In August 1970 the Army gave permission to the Coast Guard to construct a hangar at the station for housing two experimental air cushion vehicles (ACVs or "Hovercraft"). The permit also involved additional pavement for parking, an approach ramp, flood lights, and the conversion of the paint storage building into an electronics shop. By 1972 the metal-clad hangar occupied a site on the east side of the station. A survey report at that time gave a brief description of the Coast Guard station:

> Mission: boating safety, search and rescue, and aids to navigation; to provide one motor lifeboat and one air cushion vehicle twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week in support of Coast Guard missions.
>
> Staffing: three (usually only one) officers and twenty-five men.
> Facilities: two 44-foot motor lifeboats, two air cushion vehicles, and two highway vehicles.
>
> Buildings: boathouse SF19, electrical repair shop SF15, engineer "mtl" shops CG1, crew berth/administration office CG2, commander's residence CG3, commander's garage CG4, ACV hangar CG6, and standby generator room CG10.[16]

The station came under attack briefly in 1973 when a newspaper reporter wrote an article, "Auto Rules on Scenic Beach." It noted that the Coast Guard maintained its buildings flawlessly but tolerated a broken down motor pool (the enlisted men's parking lot) and junk on the beach in front of the station. The commander diffused the situation by cleaning up the beach and making the shore more accessible to the public.[17]

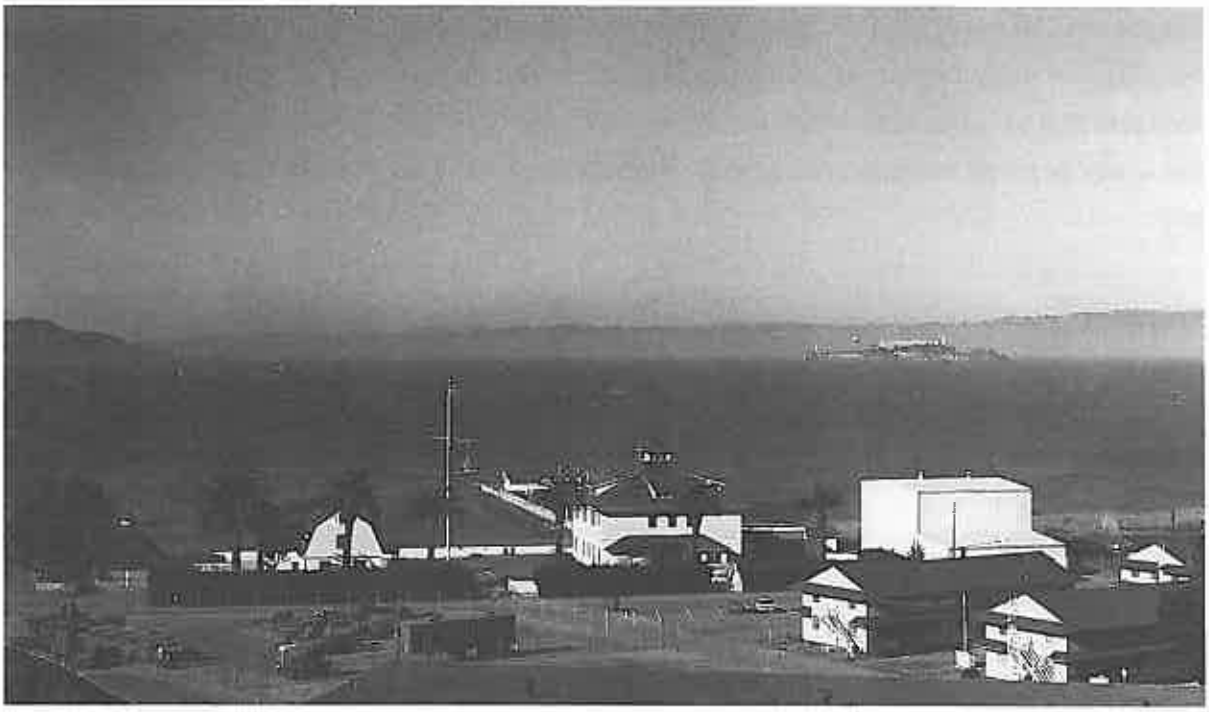
In 1974 the Coast Guard proposed removing the remaining portions of the 1914 marine railroad that had deteriorated greatly and had not been used since 1959. Following an inspection, California's historic preservation officer, William Penn Mott, Jr., agreed that removal would have no adverse effect. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation agreed.[18]

When the station's use permit came up for renewal in 1977, the changing times were marked by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers preparing an *Environmental Impact Assessment*. It noted

that the station consisted of 3.11 acres of land and 1.8 acres of tide and submerged land. Its mission remained much the same: search and rescue operations, maintenance of short range aids to navigation, and recreational boat safety in and around San Francisco Bay, the bay entrance, and the coastal waters between Bodega Bay and Monterey. The buildings now consisted of: an 8,100-square-foot main building [1903], a 1,440-square-foot garage/shop building [1902], a 500-square-foot boatswain's locker, a 2,100- square-foot two-story (Dutch Colonial) house [1901], a 5,100-square-foot former ACV hangar, and a 315-foot-long wooden catwalk with a 400-square-foot boathouse. The assessment noted that public access had been provided to the beach via the Golden Gate Promenade.[19]

In 1984 the U.S. Coast Guard, by then within the U.S. Department of Transportation, informed the Army Engineers that it was designing an offshore breakwater and a new pier for the Fort Point station. It hoped to complete the project by the end of June 1987. Because of this sizable investment, it asked the Army if the revocable permit could be extended for longer than the usual five years. But the future began to take over the present. After much negotiation among the U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Park Service, the decision was reached that U.S. Coast Guard Station 323 would move to East Fort Baker in Marin County and construct new facilities there. The decision resulted in a detailed real property inventory in 1986:

> CG2, station house, wood frame, pre-1915, four stories, administration, mess, barracks, and gallery. In the past it had contained a boathouse. Major rehabilitation in 1983.
>
> CG3, officer's quarters, wood frame, ca. 1890, two stories, residence. Recent rehabilitation.
>
> CG4, officer's garage, wood frame, ca. 1890, one story. Had once been a boathouse.
>
> CG6, ACV hangar, metal frame, 1970, one story, now engineering shop, tool crib, workshop, and office, condition good.
>
> CG1, carpenter shop, wood frame, ca. 1930s, one-story, carpenter and hobby shops.
>
> CG15, paint locker, wood frame, ca. 1930s, one-story, now storage, condition fair.
>
> CG10, emergency generator building, wood frame, one story, condition fair.
>
> CG19, boat house, access pier, wood deck and timber piles, condition bad.



U.S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Station. All buildings beyond the shrubbery are the old U.S. Coast Guard "Station Fort Point," abandoned in 1990. The two buildings left of the flagstaff date from the 1889-1890 U.S. Life Saving Services Fort Point Life Saving Station. The building to the right of the flagstaff dates from around 1915. The light-colored square building at the upper right is the former experimental hovercraft hangar. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.*

> CG20, small boat dock, wood deck and timber piles, mooring for two-three boats, condition bad.
>
> CG12, seawall bulkhead, concrete 1935, shore portion fair.[20]

Once the announcement of the move became public, a local tug-of-war developed. The Army announced that it wanted the station's buildings for guest quarters and warehousing. The officer's residence with its four bedrooms would be ideal for a colonel or a major. The six bedrooms and six bathrooms on the second floor of the station building would make great bachelor officers' quarters, while the six large rooms, without latrines, on the main floor could be bachelor officers' quarters for "geographical bachelors."[21] The facilities were in excellent shape, if a little remote from the main post. Meanwhile, the National Park Service had concluded that the station should become a part of the national recreation area and the Army could lease it. In the end the station became a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the station building became a park rangers' dormitory.

For almost 100 years the Fort Point Life Saving Station had protected those who traveled on the seas, rescuing them from dangers, educating in the ways of sailors, and providing aids to navigation. One of several in the beginning, it became the sole station for the Bay Area and the water beyond. Its traditions and its accomplishments live on in its successor across the bay.

Notes:

1. James P. Delgado and Stephen A. Haller, *Shipwrecks at the Golden Gate, A History of Vessel Losses from Duxbury Reef to Mussel Rock* (n.p., Lexikos, 1989), p. 89. Tennessee Cove is today within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

2. Sherman, *Memoirs*, pp. 94–99. Mrs. Sherman, returning east in 1855 aboard *Golden Age*, also was shipwrecked on the Pacific side of the Panama route. She and her fellow passengers were successfully rescued. Anna McAllister, *Ellen Ewing, Wife of General Sherman* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1986), pp. 123–131.

3. Delgado and Haller, *Shipwrecks*, pp. 58, 62, and 92. *Golden Fleece*, a clipper ship, was wrecked outside the Golden Gate at Fort Point on April 22, 1854. *Viscata*, an iron-hulled vessel, "came up broadside on the sands of Baker Beach," south of Fort Point on March 7, 1868. The Presidio's post returns showed no deaths among its soldiers for December 1853.

4. Walter C. Capron, *The U.S. Coast Guard* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1965), pp. 22–25.

5. Meryman, November 2, 1888, to S. J. Kimball, Life Saving Service, RG 26, NA; Toogood, *Civil History*, pp. 275–277.

6. [Illegible], Life Saving Service, October 8, 1889, to Meryman; J. W. White, Superintendent of Construction, to General Superintendent S. I. Kimball, both in Records of U.S. Coast Guard, 12th District, Alameda, CA; "Specifications for Fence" ca. January 1890, Records of USCG, RG 26, NA; "Supplement to Mimeograph number 43, Confidential, "General Correspondence, OCE, RG 77, NA; W. Graham, July 8, 1890, to T. J. Blakiney, PSF, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

7. Delgado and Haller, *Shipwrecks*, pp. 99–101.

8. *Ibid*, pp. 102–103. In January 1894, the Fort Point life saving crew rescued the crew of the schooner "barge" *Samson* that had been salvaging and dismantling *City of New York*. Caught in a storm, Samson had begun to drag anchor. The Fort Point Life-Saving Station spotted the distress signal and at great peril saved 8 of the 10-man crew (two had already been lost).

9. Harts, *Report*, pp. 89–90.

10. Howard V. L. Bloomfield, *The Compact History of the United States Coast Guard* (New York: Hawthorne Books, 1966), Presidio. 127; U.S. Coast Guard, Assistance Reports, Roll 17, Microfilm 919, NA.

11. Todd, *Story of the Exposition*, 1:285.

12. H. A. Halverson, October 8, 1919, to Department Air Service Officer, PSF, Project Files, Airfields, Army Air Force, RG 18, NA.

13. R. Coast. Marshall, May 10, 1920, to Director of Operations, Project Files, Army Air Force, RG 18, NA. During the construction of the new Fort Winfield Scott, 1909–1912, the Quartermaster Department landed materials and supplies at the engineers' "torpedo wharf" [984], at Fort Point, causing overcrowding on the wharf's facilities. In 1913 the wharf was enlarged with the addition of a triangular section in the L and a rock bunker was erected on it. The 1915 exposition blocked the Quartermaster Department's old wharf near the Presidio's eastern boundary

and again the engineers' wharf became congested. The result was the construction of a new quartermaster wharf with its large boathouse just to the east of the Fort Point Station's marine railroad about 1921. Now gone, this pier remained in use until after World War II. Chief of Engineers, October 19, 1915, to Adjutant General, General Correspondence 1894–1923, OCE, RG 77, NA.

14. R. L. Eichelberger, June 14, 1940, to CG, Ninth Corps Area, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA.

15. H. Coast. Perkins, January 2, 1952, to Coast Guard, Sixth U.S. Army, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA; File L-2, Master Plans, PSF.

16. Installation Utilization Survey Report, July 13, 1972; J. L. Fellows, August 17, 1970, to commanding officer, 12th CG District, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA. The Coast Guard gave up the air cushion boats, which could do 70 knots, in 1973.

17. *San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle*, January 21, 1973. Golden Gate National Recreation Area had been established the year before, probably bringing increased attention to the bay shore.

18. Mott, August 26, 1974, to E. G. O'Keefe, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA.

19. "Environmental Impact Assessment," June 14, 1977, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA.

20. File P-4, Master Plans, PSF; Commander, 12th CG District, August 31, 1984, to Army Corps of Engineers, USCG Records, Real Property Branch, 12th CG District, Alameda, CA.

21. The term "geographical bachelors" is not defined in the records.